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黒の魔王
VI

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FREEDOM
NOVEL

Kuro no Maou

Volume 6 - Towards Spada

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Chapter 69 – The 4 Apostles (1)

The Daedalus royal castle's throne room was the same as it was, elegantly made by Dwarf artisans, but just the black dragon emblem had been replaced by God's cross emblem.

In that throne room that emphasised on its new ruler, 4 people were sitting in armchairs.

“Welcome to Daedalus.”

The one who spoke the words of welcome in a soft voice the Supreme Commander of the Crusaders as well as the one who single-handedly defeated the Dragon King Gaevinall and earned the title of [Dragon Slayer], the 7th Apostle Sariel.

“We came especially for the sake of seeing you so better be thankful, Sariel!”

The one calling Sariel by name in a girly high-pitched voice was the 11th Apostle Misa.

As usual, wearing a high exposure modified robe, Misa crossed her seductive bare legs and reclined on the chair arrogantly.

“It, It has been a long time, Lord Sariel.....”

A boy so beautiful that if a believer saw him they would get a nosebleed looking at that cute, blushing face showing restlessness and nervousness. It was the 12th Apostle Mariabelle.

He had thought up various smart lines but when he came in front of Sariel, he could only use the safe words of greeting only.

“It's good to see that you are in good health Sariel-chan, but—”

And, with a gentle smile truly worthy of being called the [Holy woman], the 3rd Apostle Mikael stood up from her seat and walked towards Sariel.

Sariel who possessed an elegant and ephemeral presence and

Mikael who had a voluptuous body and the charm of an adult; the scene of these 2 together having 2 extreme types of beauty looked somewhat similar to seeing a mother and her child.

“It seems your injuries have not yet healed.”

Mikael gently held Sariel’s right palm that was still in bandages.

“Oh my how terrible! Such a big hole has opened here.”

Mikael somehow guessed the extent and type of injury just by caressing Sariel’s palm.

The palm that was struck with Kurono’s poison needle, Sariel had pierced her own palm with her spear to remove the poisoned portions, that wound had not yet healed up.

“[Pain, Pain go away♪]”

At Mikael’s carefree words, not a single one here felt that she was joking around.

“.....Thank you very much.”

“No need. It’s my duty after all.”

As Mikael let go of her hand, the bandage automatically started coming off.

On Sariel’s hand, the painful wound that should have been there was now nowhere to be seen, as if there wasn’t a wound in the first place. Sariel’s clean white hand could be seen.

To have healed the wound, that would have normally taken some time even with treatment, instantly, was one part of the 3rd Apostle Mikael’s abilities.

With a satisfied smile, Mikael returned back to her seat.

“That wound earlier, how did you get it? Did a dragon appear again?”

Misa asked in a sharp voice.

“Yes, it seemed different from the wounds gotten from facing the Dragon king.”(mariabelle)

Those two were simply worried about Sariel, or rather, they were curious about this existence that could damage Sariel who was an apostle even after the Daedalus army had been annihilated.

“.....”

Sariel answered with silence.

Anybody else could have just lied, but for the extremely awkward/tactless Sariel, lying was almost impossible. Thus silence.

“fuuun, so you won’t answer.”

Seeing Sariel stay quiet, Misa’s eyes flashed.

Sariel thought for a second, that maybe she realized that she(sariel) had let an enemy get away but,

“fufun, you, stupidly got into an accident and injured yourself, right?!”(misa)

“.....”

[Thank god she’s an idiot] anybody would have thought that on seeing Misa misunderstanding splendidly by herself.

“You must have carelessly touched the blade of the armament scripture and got that wound, right?”(misa)

“Isn’t that what you did a while back?”

While sighing, Mariabelle recalled that embarrassing event where Misa, ‘Can armament scriptures cut even Apostles?’ thought that and grabbed the blade that was not just at a level of being extremely sharp, and gotten her wrist severed!

“Oh shaddup! If I can mess up then Sariel can too, right?!?”(misa)

“Just who, other than yourself, would make such a mistake?”(mariabelle)

“I just know that’s how Sariel messed up as well!!”

Demonstrating her convenient skill of not listening to inconvenient things about her, Misa approached Sariel while ignoring Mariabelle.

Against that Misa, Sariel,

“.....nn.”

Slightly nodded and accepted.

She can’t lie, but there’s no need to correct the misunderstanding of the opposite side either.

If she agreed here, there would no pursuit for Kurono, even Sariel could make such a judgement.

“See! It really was an accident!!”(Misa)

“Everyone makes mistakes of course.”(mariabelle)

Mariabelle made a perfect 180° turn in a few seconds. (T/N : Wow this guy.)

“Mariabelle, you.....”

That’s completely different from what you were saying till now, said Misa with her eyes.

But he showed no signs of wavering because,

“I am Lord Sariel’s ally.”(mariabelle)

“fun, yes-man aren’t really popular though.”

“!?!”

Misa’s one line, disrupted the boy’s heart.

“Of course, even Sariel doesn’t like guys with no individuality,

right?”(misa)

“I.....”(sariel)

“See!! Even Sariel doesn’t like guys like you!!”(misa)

I haven’t said anything, or so she thought but Sariel had already lost the timing to interpose between the rapid fast talking.

“uu.....Lord Sariel, I.....I am.....”

Heartbroken, Mariabelle’s shoulder dropped down disappointed.

Misa looked down on him with a triumphant pose.

Sariel remained expressionless but was thinking hard to at least say something.

An idiotic composition that can never be shown to a devout believer of the cross religion, was taking place currently inside the throne room.

“ufufu, it was the right decision to come for a visit. Everyone seems so happy.”

Mikael, who was much older, looked at the three Apostles with a warm gaze.

But she was supposed to control this meeting and not let it go like this as the eldest Apostle here, anyone would think that, but there was no one here who could point that out to her.

And thus, the first meeting between the 4 Apostles on the Pandora Continent kept on going with a ‘pleasant’ atmosphere like this and not a single topic relating to politics or the religion was raised.

Chapter 70 – The 4 Apostles (2)

Late at night, 2 figures were standing on the balcony of the Daedalus royal castle.

“The conversation during the day sure heated up quickly. Lord Sariel’s expression also seemed brighter than usual.”

While gazing at the nightscape of Daedalus spreading below, Archbishop Liuchrome spoke these words.

Beside him stood his younger brother Mariabelle who had the same beautiful face that could be mistaken for a girl’s.

The two of them were real brothers of the Ignosis family.

“fufu, I’ll be happy if that really is true.”

Mariabelle closed his eyes thought of the face of his crush. Since he was alone with his brother right now, he had reverted to a normal tone instead of his usual stiff and formal speaking way.

“Though, I would have been happier if Lord Misa wasn’t here.”

“She must have been also worried about Lord Sariel after all. As expected of her self-proclaimed ‘eternal rival’, fufufu, how charming.”(Liuchrome)

Maybe because they are of the same age and gender, the one-sided rivalry Misa had towards Sariel was so famous that there was no one in Elysion that didn’t know about it.

Liuchrome who has had the chance to directly come in contact with the apostles actually had seen Misa shouting “Wait a second Sariel!!” and trying to pick a fight, so he knows that it isn’t just a rumour.

“Haah, it’s really sad that I had to become the kouhai (T/N:junior) of such a childish person. If I could have awakened as an Apostle a bit more earlier—“(mariabelle)

Apostles are numbered according to the order in which they 'awaken' and that also decides their hierarchy as well.

Misa was older in age than Mariabelle so it was only natural to have awakened as an Apostle earlier as well.

But still, every time Misa said something, he only lamented the fact further.

"She will also become a great Apostle like the previous ones, surely. From my point of view, Lord Misa seems to possess sensitiveness and common sense befitting a girl of her age."(Liuchrome)

".....I really wonder about that."(Mariabelle)

"That's what it is."

Liuchrome smiled meaningfully while Mariabelle still showed an expression of not accepting it.

The two brothers continued conversing underneath the starry night sky.

"——By the way, what did Cardinal Ars say?"

The moment Liuchrome asked that, Mariabelle's expression tightened.

"Don't cause any trouble with the subordinates of Mercedes."(mariabelle)

"I see."

Liuchrome's gaze looked past the castle walls of Daedalus.

'Subordinates of Mercedes', i.e., the forces that came as reinforcements after the battle of Goldran, that were currently capturing the villages outside in the territory of Daedalus.

"The first land Virginia, Capital Daedalus, and the keystone for sea trade, Eidon. With these three important points already in our hands, I don't really see the need to fight more just to increase our

territory, though.”

It was the Crusaders that won at Goldran and captured Daedalus but on if one would see the internal circumstances, they would realize that the army was totally of the Cardinal Ars faction inside the Republic.

Starting from the fact that the vice commander was Ars’ right-hand man, the 15 thousand soldiers were all men that he himself had gathered. The only person not clearly attached to any faction was only the Apostle Sariel.

Originally, everyone had refrained from sending their own troops in a losing battle.

But, now that the Crusaders had won, the ‘owner’ of the army, that is Cardinal Ars would also have the whole land under his control naturally.

Thus, all three important points mentioned before would also come under Ars’ control as well.

But after the battle of Goldran, the new reinforcements that came were publicly a part of the same Crusaders but it was a fact that they were all a part of various factions of the church and nobles.

Among those was the especially influential faction belonging to the man name Mercedes, one of the 3 Cardinals.

“It’ll be troublesome, if some part of the territory is not given to them.”(Liuchrome)

Starting with Mercedes, if they tried to suppress all others trying gain benefits from Pandora and keep everything under Ars’ control, then a revolt will break out sooner or later.

Currently, the Pandora continent was extremely attractive for them. That is why there a high chance of an inquisition being conducted through assassinations and false accusations, and break up the Crusaders internally.

But conversely, if they were given some ‘share’ as Liuchrome

suggested, then there would be no revolt, at least publicly.

If the Ars' side declared that the rights to the territories in Daedalus as 'first come first serve', then the reinforcements will start competing among themselves.

As long as they didn't interfere, it didn't matter how much the others go around destroying things. The Ars faction has already acquired enough land for themselves and is already in a winning position.

"But that's only till the right to control over the Daedalus territory is officially decided." (mariabelle)

"Yes, we simply controlled one part of the eastern area of the continent only." (liuchrome)

The Pandora continent is extremely vast. Even if they are controlling the important areas of Daedalus currently, if they cannot get right to control over other areas, the current advantage will become zero or maybe even become a minus for them.

"But, it'll be some time before we cross the Gallahad mountain range and invade the city-state located in the central region." (Liu)

"That's why, 'brother and others' should increase their military strength as much as possible while you have the time." (MB)

"Well we did lose quite a lot of soldiers at Goldran after all. It'll take some time before we can once again gather a trusted army."

"Conversely speaking, even if those nobles get impertinent and start attacking the central region,"

"There's no choice but to overlook them. But even if that happens, there's only a 1 in a thousand chance that they'll be able to cross the mountain."

There were many reasons behind why Liuchrome was able to say that with a daring smile.

Firstly, the ultimate strength of their army, Apostle Sariel, basically

will not be taking part in any further battles from now onwards.

The Apostle that can take sure victory cannot be stopped if they desire more territory. And to take a territory for their own self, there was a need to capture it by themselves to claim right to control, but there is a restriction on them that they can only take part in battle when an enemy of an equal power level appears.

Thus, no faction can claim for the aid of Sariel until a situation where [they cannot win by themselves or they will take huge losses] appears.

Even if she is the supreme commander, if she ignored the ideas of other and moved by her own, then the rule of dividing the profits will collapse and could lead to the breakup of the Crusaders.

Thus, now that the first and the biggest threat towards the conquering of Pandora, that is the conquest of Daedalus has been done, there were many who stated that there is no need for Sariel to move any more. Also, the Apostles themselves have also nominated Sariel to 'watch over' the conquest of the continent.

And Sariel herself, understood the duty required from her, and will not interfere uselessly in the Crusaders.

"In the first place, the strength of the private armies of the nobles and churches is limited. If there affiliation is different, then they won't cooperate with each other either."(MB)

"Exactly. But the main reason why they cannot cross the mountain is [Spada]." (Liu)

"Spada?"(MB)

"It's the name of the city-state adjacent to the territory of Daedalus. That Spada is currently protecting the border along the Gallahad mountain ranges."

"So, are they strong?"

"All the demon armies are strong in the first place. But Spada that is known as the 'Gladiator city', has soldiers that are considered elite

even among the demons.”

“Gladiator ‘ is it? The demons really have savage customs still prevailing here.”

“But, thanks to that custom, the most elite of the warriors have been gathered in Spada. There is also a to add mercenaries to the defence forces of Spada it seems. On top of that, the Gallahad mountain ranges provide a natural protection to Spada as a fort. It’s truly a terrain fit to fight a defensive battle. To invade properly, we might need a force even bigger than the one used at Goldran.” (Liu)

It has been a little over one month after the capture of Daedalus. Liuchrome has already started gathering info about the next target of the Crusaders, which is city state located in the central region, Spada and also of other neighbouring central region city-states.

And the info that Liuchrome had gathered, he had no intention of sharing with the rest of the Crusaders.

“I see. But those people will still try and invade Spada, I think.”(MB)

“fufufu, till the time they come back crying to Her Excellency Sariel after becoming unable to cross the mountains, we’ll leisurely spend time right here in Daedalus.”

Expecting ‘them’ to face a harsh defeat against the ‘inferior demons’, Liuchrome did not tell others the true strength of Spada. It was on the level of full info concealment actually.

Even if they belong to the same Crusaders, as long as the factions are competing against each other, even Ars wanted the other armies to get hurt.

“As usual, Nii-san is malicious…….”(MB)

Looking at the amused face of his older brother, Mariabelle said so.

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While the Ignosis brothers were spending their time together, the 11th Apostle Misa was lazily sprawled on her magnificently giant bed with a canopy, in her underwear.

There was not a single fragment of modesty in her behaviour. Even her underwear was a gaudy one famous among the ladies of the republic.

She did not wear the plain white ones provided by the sisters even once unlike Sariel.

For her, it was a matter of her own fashion sense but for others it only looked like selfishness.

But still, she was someone who had the title of an Apostle. There weren't few who depended on her strength.

"fufufu.....to depend on me rather Sariel, it looks like there are a few with a good eye even among the Crusaders."

In her hands were some official documents. The letter containing them had been roughly torn and thrown away somewhere.

"I came to Pandora continent, it would have been boring to just see Sariel's face and just go back after saying goodbye after all."

Misa made a smile like that of a child that just came up with a prank and threw away the documents after rolling and crumpling them up.

The paper that flew in the air let out a faint light just before falling on the ground.

Soon after, the light vanished and only the ashes remained.

"I don't care whether they are demons or foreigners, I, 11th Apostle Misa, will personally pass judgement on all those who go against god!!"

Ahhahaha, Misa laughed loudly.

That voice reached even the 3rd Apostle Mikael in the next room but the woman, who was like a mass of only love and motherhood, just loosened her cheeks on hearing her over energetic neighbour.

Chapter 71 – Aftermath

When I woke up, it was in a room I have seen several times.

A truly lonely room with nothing except the plain bed of wood that I am sleeping on.

Looks like this is the guest room inside the adventurer guild.

“Goodmorning Kurono-san”

The moment I recognised the place I was, a familiar voice reached my ears, when I changed my line of sight there were two golden eyes.

“.....Fiona-san?”

“Yes, I am Fiona”

Her face was saying “What about it?”. Even though I say that her face was expressionless with eyes staring at me, it’s just that I thought so through the atmosphere around here.

A moment of silence appears between me and Fiona-san sitting on a chair just sideways to the bed.

“How long was I asleep?”

“Around 2 hours I think.”

I somewhat understand the situation.

The remaining adventurer’s lead by Fiona-san must have driven out the other Crusaders.

So it means, after exhausting the magic, I was carried to the Guild for resting.

I am really happy that it didn’t become like I fainted for 1 whole day like the previous time with Sariel.

I've got a lot to think about and do from now on.

"How is it the situation?"

"I got hungry and came here"

"No, not about Fiona-san but what is the situation of village?"

Why the hell would I have to ask about Fiona-san's situation right now?

As expected this person is dislocated in the mental department.

"The vigilante corps have freed the captured villagers, and have started the evacuation towards Kuar Village."

"Captured? So, everyone is alright?"

"It is hard to say that all villagers are alright, the Crusader that came here have already killed most of the villagers. If it was after they have been dragged as slaves, then I doubt there would have been any survivors in this village."

"Slavery? Ha, it really came to this, something that is only written in history textbooks Damn it!"

The moment I saw the scene of those bastards occupying Daedalus, I predicted something like slavery would occur. They will take the young men for labour and the old people and sick people along with rebellious people would be massacred.

But, this prediction really became a reality , huh

"Bullshit!— Those son of bitches....."

And, I was not able to save this village not even my friends.

After all this time, really, at this late regret and sadness swallows my heart.

Right now in my hand is neither the cursed weapon that lets me forget everything due to anger, and neither the enemies in front on

whom I can release all the anger.

An impulse to burst out crying and shout out grows inside of me.

“.....I will cry later.”

I close my eyes, and concentrate the time I use magic and calm down all the trembling emotions swelling inside me.

I have something I must do.

If there are villagers, then I have to evacuate them safely.

And, the Crusaders who will definitely come once again, I will have them taste the ground.

“Furthermore, I can’t always show uncool side of me.”

Pushing aside the white sheet covering my body, I rise up.

Besides me, is the figure of a small fairy lying down and holding me tight.

“Hey, Lily”

I gently brush the golden long hair of Lily, who is sleeping with a cute face.

I rise up from the bed without waking up Lily and wear the black robe folded and put near the bed.

My body feels fine, and there is not even a scratch on my black robe , the ‘Baphomet’s Embrace’.

The holes pierced during the time with Sariel and the burns from the Priest’s magic have all been restored, as if there really is a real devil dwelling inside.

“But, why is Lily also sleeping here?”

“After you fainted, she came ‘flying’ till here. After laying you here, she was moving around and healing the injured villagers. After most of the healing was done, she dived into the bed naked

shouting ‘KuronoOO!!’. She might have gotten tired due to using healing magic a lot.”

“She completed healing already? As expected of Lily, no one can match her. By the way, was it needed for you to explain that she dived into the bed naked.”

“She looked very excited”

“Is that so, Lily is a small child so don’t mind her being in her high spirits.”

The dress Lily was wearing had been thrown at the end of the bed.

“I see, my heart was really beating fast thinking what would start happening, I will try not to pay attention to both of you in bed from now on.”

“Nh? un. well it’s fine if you understand.”

It doesn’t seem like a good answer, but looks like Fiona-san is alright with it so let’s leave it there.

“Then, I’ll be going out for a while.”

“Going to help?”

“Yeah, and I also have to do the memorial service for friends.”

“.....I see”

“What will Fiona-san do?”

“I have an important promise with Lily-san, so I will wait here till she wakes up.”

“Promise?”

“Yes, it’s a really really important promise. And I must not be a second late to fulfill it.”

“I don’t know what is it, but I’ll leave Lily to you for the time being.”

“Yes”

“Ah, you said you were hungry, right? I will bring food the while returning.”

“I see, that’s a grateful offer, then please bring it fast, must be sweet and a lot of it.”

After being requested in a very greedy way, I left the house.

It was officially announced that the vigilante corps along with adventurers and reinforcements repelled the Crusaders inside Irz Village.

But, if Kurono and Lily were not present, the Crusaders wouldn’t have backed down so easily. [ET: The author is a retard, he changed the perspective.]

Kurono alone killed near 100 Crusaders along with the Priest Kievan. Due to him the morale and number of soldier were reduced.

On top of that, even more bad luck to the soldiers was the fact that Corvus and all the magicians were dispatched for gaining control of fountain of light.

If the suppression unit sensed something unusual and returned to Irz Village, there is no doubt that Kurono would have had tables turned onto him.

However, that suppression unit was completely wiped out from the face of earth by the hands of Lily.

After losing the commander and most of the military force, the soldiers took the decision to escape.

Anyhow, the Crusaders who threw the Irz Villagers into the bottom of hell with fear have retreated and the villagers are evacuating to Kuar Village for refuge.

The evacuations was held without any problems.

The Irz right now, doesn’t have any military force to block the

invasion from a big dragon or a swarm of monsters.

Hence during emergencies the villagers should escape, That is something told in every village.

Let it be being eaten by dragon, or being killed by Crusaders, the important people die, in spite of that the villagers face with reality and immediately try to evacuate.

There are cries here and there, some had mournful expressions and some had hollow eyes but still for survival they were moving their bodies.

Kurono desperately suppresses his overflowing emotions and helped the determined villagers in evacuation, he has already 'taken care' of the corpses of people.

There is an formal traditional funeral process in Irz, but there is not enough time for it as they Crusaders may come back anytime soon.

As there were a lot of corpses, in the end they were all burned as a substitute for funeral.

Without the satisfied number of coffins nor the gravesites, most of the corpses were put together and buried.

There was no other way than this to dispose of the corpses so there was no one who opposed these methods either.

There is nothing they can do other than apologising and crying for not giving them a proper funeral.

Kurono thought why did these people have to suffer this much while watching the corpses turn to ashes in the fire.

(If I had returned even 1 day earlier, I might have repelled the Crusaders

At the very least, the number of corpses would have been lower.

Thinking about a 'what if' situation when it has already occurred may be meaningless.

But, by reflecting on that fact for not being able to make it, the next time he might be able to do something when an emergency appears.

This time, towards the conclusion he wanted.

(“The Crusader bastards will definitely come back, this time to Kuar and they will keep on coming. “)

Daedalus is defeated and dragon king is dead, it's better to think that this whole territory is now in the hands of Crusaders. That explains why an expedition group was dispatched to a countryside.

With no sufficient forces for repelling Crusaders, it's just a matter of time the territory is conquered. There is no safe place within this territory anymore.)

Kurono recalls the map of the whole eastern part of Daedalus continent, that he saw in Village head's home.

(Distance and terrain, no matter how one looks at it Spada is the only escape route left.)

From the west of the Irz Village that is located on the western edge in the territory of Daedalus, exists the Gallahad Mountain range and after crossing them is the City State Spada.

(The Spada has prepared an army for the invasion in Daedalus, I don't know what it is like, but it is the only place with a military force that can repel the Crusaders. The only problem is whether they will let an inhabitant from the enemy country Daedalus to take refuge on their side.....no, the refugee problems aren't something that would be even solved like modern times. No matter what I think, it won't help me.)

The problems whether they will take in a person from enemy nation or even if they aren't enemies will they take an refugee from a foreign country. The answers to these political like problems is impossible for Kurono to solve who was an High schooler and is an adventurer for 3 months.

Hence, Kurono concludes, to think when the time comes.

(More than that, one more problem is whether those bastards let us run off easily. It is a good if the evacuation ends before an expedition group comes, but what if we don't make it before them? What if they send a pursuit unit after the refugees? Will we be able to run off to Spada without any obstacles?)

Kurono exhaled a sigh and muttered.

“It's not, will we be able to, but we definitely will!”

Kurono once again realizes the thing he should be doing right now.

(If those bastards come after us I will stop them, I will protect them this time! For sure!)

Chapter 72 – Evacuation Start

(1)

“ooh, thank god our place was safe!”

After approximately 1 week, we returned back to our home inside the forest.

I was afraid that it might have been found by the Crusaders while going to the fountain of light and put to fire, but it looks like it was safe.

The evacuation of Irz village is almost over and currently the villagers are moving to the Kuar village with their belongings.

Since there was nothing left for me to help with, this time we came back to prepare for our own moving out.

“I’m back.”

“I’m back!”

(T/N: kurono and lily said ‘Tadaima’ which is usually said by Japanese when coming back home.)

My and Lily’s energetic voice resounded inside the small room.

“Pardon the intrusion.”

And behind us came the voice of a girl. She was the mysterious witch Fiona Soleil.

Why is she here? I wondered that but somehow she came with the flow and there really wasn’t any reason to refuse her either.

“Come to think of it, she is the second person to have come here as a guest, right?”

That guest no. 2 sat down on the bed where Lily was rolling on and looked at me with serious eyes.

“Kurono-san, I have something very important to talk about.”(Fiona)

“With me?”(kurono)

“Yes. Since Lily-san returned to her child form, only you can complete it now.”

Aa, now that I think about it, Fiona-san was telling me about some promise with Lily earlier as well.

After I had returned to the guild, she started quietly eating the bread and soup I brought so I didn't hear the details yet.

But what's making me more curious is what she said about Lily's 'child form'.

“Did you perhaps meet with the older Lily?”(kurono)

“Yes, I didn't think that girl could turn back into such a pure looking child.”(Fiona)

What? Isn't the older Lily also super cute and even more beautiful than the current Lily? Maybe she was surprised due to suddenly seeing her mature form?

Well whatever. What's important is the promise that Lily made with Fiona-san.

“So, what's this promise?”

“Yes, that's—“

For a second I was worried if the promise was to pay the reward, enough to bankrupt me, for saving me.

What kind of promise did you make Lily!?!

By the Lily is currently playing on the bed while using a Frankensteiner on a big pillow and is unaware of my worries. (T/N: Frankensteiner is a wrestling move. Google it.)

“That is?”(kuroono)

“That is to let me eat as much ice candy as I want.” (Fiona)

“.....What?”(kuroono)

“To let me eat ice candy ‘as much as I want’.”

With emphasis on the ‘as much as I want’ part, Fiona-san repeated it once more.

“You’ll let me eat, right?”(Fiona)

She looked at me with a gaze that implied that she would burn down this hut if I said no.

Well, she did help me after all. I don’t really mind making some ice candy for her.

“I don’t have much ingredients so I want be able to make a lot of them though.”

“I see, that’s fine. Then please start.”

And thus, before we started packing to move out, I first made some ice candy for her.

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From the 4th of the month of Ryokufuu till the 20th of the month of Shinyou, it wasn’t long but we vacated the hut where I had a lot of unforgettable memories and finally reached the Kuar village by the evening.

After I had Fiona-san eat a lot of ice candy’s made from various ingredients, she returned sleepily back to the Kuar village guild.

Lily and my lodging would also be the same as adventurers but before that there is something we must do.

“It’d be nice if they properly listen to us though.”

I wanted to let as many people I can know about the [death of the dragon king] and [fall of Daidalos]. So I first came to the house of Kuar village’s head.

The house which was used as the place for solving the problems of the villagers was currently filled with the refugees.

They must be also troubled since they did not know about the situation.

But from my point of view who knew about the Crusaders, the best decision that can be taken right now was to evacuate to Spada as quickly as possible. If we don’t take action soon, it’ll already be too late.

But the problem is, since I wasn’t even acquainted with the Kuar village’s head, I wonder if they would believe a rank 1 adventurer like me.

Although I am a bit anxious, nothing would start unless I actually talk.

“Alright, let’s go Lily!”

“Un!”

Hardening my resolve, I stepped into the village head’s house.

Chapter 73 – Evacuation Start

(2)

Kuar village was a very important point for transport as it was connected to both the north-west and south-west highways. Thus, it was much bigger than Irz village and proportionately, the house of the Village head was also a magnificent one.

It is a three storey building in which the first floor (or ground floor for some guys) was used as a public space for meetings etc., and the 2nd and 3rd floor was used as the residence.

Currently on the first floor, numerous troubled villagers are standing who are being consulted by the village head, vigilante corps leader and the guild master of Kuar, in the centre of the area.

“An army made of numbers is no trouble! Those bastards ran away after just looking at our brave vigilante corps! Cowards like those will be no trouble no matter how many come!!”

The person giving this fervent speech was the leader of the vigilante corps and son of the village head, a man named Nachim.

After hearing the report that rescue team sent to Irz village had easily driven the enemy army away, he was suggesting resisting while staying in the Kuar village.

During the morning, when refugees started appearing, everyone was suggesting to evacuate since they only knew that the enemy was an army of humans.

And so, the villagers of Kuar were ready to evacuate whenever required.

But, after learning that the rescue team had easily won, and the enemy army wasn't very tough, at least Nachim came to this decision.

The villagers could evacuate quickly, but that didn't mean that they

had no problems in leaving their homes and living the lives of refugees.

Nachim, while emphasizing that 'he will lead', was against the evacuation while shouting about how the rescue team brilliantly won as if he himself had done it.

But in fact, most of the rescue team was made of adventurers and there were few members of vigilante corps.

Obviously, Nachim himself didn't even take part in the rescue team and stayed in Kuar village to 'watch over the changes in the situation'.

"Is there any need to run away against a band of thieves?!"(nachim)

"uuu~hm....."

The village head, Nahad, pondered over it with a bitter face. He was reluctant to accept his son's decision to stay and fight and was unsure of victory.

Although he was young compared to Shione who was an elf, Nahad was still a 60 yr old human and was much more experienced. He probably will not take a rash decision.

But Nachim could only think of his father as someone who has become a coward with age.

"Hmm, what does the Guild Master think? After hearing the reports, is there a threat from the enemy army?"(Nahad)

"From just the reports, there were 3 magicians and soldiers with spears and bows. A hundred man army is certainly formidable but with just humans who have neither special strength nor any Extra magic, and no one who could use martial arts even, we'll be fine even if they attack us with twice the numbers."

"Indeed. We even defeated the three magicians. An army of just humans are the same as goblins no matter what the number."

The three magicians, Kievan and the others, who must have been

recognised as magicians from their clothes were not even defeated by the rescue team either.

But, since it was unclear as to who did it, they decided to make it their own achievement.

“The Kuar village has much more adventurers and vigilante corps than Irz. We drove off an army of more than 100 with just a rescue squad, this Kuar village that is protected by a stone wall will not fall even if a thousand come!!”

Due to his over confident speech, the people here are changing their minds from evacuating to resisting.

Even the village head was shifting towards that idea.

“Village head, an adventurer of Irz village named Kurono would like to talk.”

A villager spoke to the Head.

“I thought the adventurers of Irz had all perished?”

“It seems he was away on a different quest. He came to Kuar this morning and instantly ran towards Irz after hearing the situation.”

“Oh, I did hear something like that. I see, so he survived and returned. It seems the rescue team made it in time.”

It was about an unknown adventurer yet he seemed relieved on hearing that.

“So, what should we do?”(villager)

“Yes, let him through. I want to hear from someone who actually saw what happened.”(Head)

Acknowledging, the messenger left the room.

“Everyone, it seems an adventurer from Irz wants to talk so let’s hear more about what happened at the actual place.”(Head)

The room became a bit noisy but no one openly opposed it.

“Adventurer of Irz, Kurono, come inside.”

With the Head’s words, the doors opened, and Kurono who was dressed in full black along with Lily came in.

“Pardon the intrusion. I am a rank 1 adventurer from Irz village, Kurono.”(kurono)

“fu, rank 1? A total newbie?”

It was just a village meeting, but Nachim was acting like some feudal lord.

Kurono clearly heard those discriminatory words but without even reacting he cut straight to the point.

“Firstly, I’ll tell what I have seen in Daedalus directly.”(kurono)

“Daedalus? Wasn’t it supposed to be sealed right now?”

The Head asked.

“I felt unrest so I decided to enter illegally.”(kurono)

“I see. I can’t find faults in your actions right now either. So, what did you see?”

Kurono spoke in a single breath.

“The Dragon King Gaevinal is dead and Daedalus has been captured.”

“Impossible?!?”

Nachim shouted in surprise. But everyone else here were also surprised. Even the Head and the Guild master had widened their eyes.

“Don’t go around saying something so improper!! Do you even understand the current situation——“

Nachim angrily drew his sword from his waist towards Kurono but, “Calm down Nachim, everyone else as well. First let us hear the details.”

The Head somehow calmed the surroundings and urged Kurono to continue.

“The ones who have captured Daedalus is an army of humans that came from the Arc continent called the Crusaders. They are the same people that had built up Virginia on the coast around a year back.”(kurono)

The Head was of course aware of the town called Virginia.

But he had also heard that it was a worthless existence when compared to the army of Daedalus and the Dragon King.

“As you say, the army of Daedalus had completely stopped the humans of Virginia, but a few months back a large scale reinforcement army was dispatched. I don’t know the exact numbers but the Crusaders certainly defeated the army of Daedalus and the Dragon King Gaevinal was killed in battle. The order to seal off highways was probably sent soon after they had captured Daedalus.”(kurono)

“umumu, to think something like that had happened is truly unbelievable.....”

Even if they can’t reject it clearly but they can’t accept it easily as well.

“But, the Crusaders came to Irz Village. It was only a minor part of their true army. Even if we drove them back now, they’ll soon come back with a new force to capture the village. It’ll be too late if you don’t start evacuating now, please.”

Kurono pleaded them seriously but the fact that the dragon king had died and daedalus had been captured was not something these people, who lived under the dragon king and sang his praises, could easily accept.

Even the Village Head could not accept this type of fact so suddenly.

So would the short tempered Nachim accept something said by a rank 1 adventurer?

“It’s a lie. It’s definitely a lie! All this talk is just bullshit. This man has gone mad due to his home being attacked!! He is thinking the band of thieves is a part of an army!!”

Even Kurono got pissed on being treated as a mad man, but he somehow bared with it, and spoke the truth.

“I clearly saw the flag of Cross emblem in Daedalus royal castle.”(kurono)

“You just saw weong! That dragon king was killed? Daedalus has fallen? That’s impossible until and unless the old Demon King has appeared!!!”

Kurono also replied while raising his voice.

“If you don’t believe it then try interrogating one of the captured soldiers!”

“fun, truly a pitiful guy, but be relieved. We will protect this village. You can go sleep on the bed of the guild while shivering and praying to your god.”

In front of Nachim who was clearly scorning him, rather than getting angry, Kurono instead became impatient.

If they don’t believe him here, then the evacuation to Spada will not start.

And to top it off, this guys is actually thinking of fighting by themselves.

Certainly, Kuar has many times the number of vigilantes and adventurers when compared to Irz but no way can they stop the Crusaders who number in ten thousands.

If they are surrounded, all the villagers will definitely be massacred.

Kurono started sweating from his forehead. He had to start evacuation by any means possible.

“Believe me! It’s all true!! It’ll be too late if we don’t start evacuating now!!”

“ugh silence you madman! We have no time to go along with your farce! Oi, someone throw this man out!!”

It can’t be helped that the villagers could not decide who was right without proper information.

Even the village head, was doubting Kurono’s words.

The room was filled with noise. Did the dragon king really die? What about Daedalus? Is it all a lie? Isn’t he just a mad adventurer?

And inside that noise,

“Filthy pig who made fun of my Kurono, I’ll kill you.”

Lily who quietly murmured was not heard but anyone, even Kurono.

As Kurono was thinking hard how to convince the villagers, Lily pulled Kurono’s robe.

“What is it Lily? Right now——“

“Kurono, leave this place to me.”

As Lily gave a smile, Kurono realized that an intelligent light was shining in her eyes.

“Lily——“

He called, but Lily left from near his feet and moved towards the seat where the Head and others were.

And with the flapping of the 7-coloured wings she rose in mid air and floated in front of the Head.

“It has been a long time, Village Head Nahad.”(lily)

The Head raised a voice in surprise on seeing her.

“Li, Lily-san, why are you here.....”

“ufufu, it’s a good thing to see you in high spirits. You won’t need the miracle drug for some time like this.”

In his head, the small figure of the fairy that appeared near his pillow when he had fallen ill and resolved for death a few decades ago, appeared.

After that, he took Lily’s miracle drug once in a year and had been fit ever since.

But, the lily who had an attitude as per her appearance and was always naked like a normal fairy, was currently showing fluent speech as well as was dressed in a black dress, this made the Head feel very unusual.

Lily quickly sensed the unease in his emotions.

“aa, this is the true me, so don’t worry too much about it Head-san.”

“So, what could be the matter? As you can see we are currently in an extremely complicated situation–“

“It’s alright. I understand everything. And I am also saying that whatever Kurono is saying is also true.”

“True, you say?”

Looking at Lily who was serious for the first time, the Head gulped in.

“Ee, the dragon king is dead, Daedalus has been captured, and the ones who did it were truly the fearsome army of humans called Crusaders. It’s all true.”

“No, no way.....”

“You should know as well, fairies can never lie.”

The room had gotten completely silent.

The villagers, even Nachim, could only believe it if Lily who was a fairy said ‘it is true’.

That’s because fairies ‘cannot lie’, thus they can only accept it even without any proof.

In actuality, Lily who was a half-fairy, especially now where she had her intelligence as well, could easily lie if she wanted to but the people here didn’t know that.

Thus, no one doubted that Lily’s words were true or not.

“I had gone with Kurono to Daedalus myself and I clearly saw it with my own eyes. The flag that flew in the royal castle as well as the monster human that has the power to kill the dragon king.”

“oh..oo.....how can this be.....”

This time the village head was truly grieving from the truth thrust in front of him by Lily.

“Hear me. The country known as Daedalus has fallen. The territory will be ruled by the Crusaders. If you don’t run away now, you will face the same end as Irz. It’s impossible to negotiate with them. The human believers of the Cross call us as demons and are truly trying to kill us all. There is only one way to live, quickly start evacuating towards Spada.”

“Sp, to Spada?!?!”

The one who raised his voice was not the Head but Nachim.

The two countries saw each other as enemies. Nachim had been dreaming of entering the army when the time to attack Spada came.

To evacuate to there was somewhat difficult to accept even for the villagers as well.

“You have been loud from the start. Will you shut up already!?”
(lily)

On being looked upon as trash by the small girl Lily, Nachim got angry,

“o,oooo.....ii.....”

Or he was about to but Nachim somehow felt a sense of pleasure. He got ‘charmed’ by Lily’s cold expression.

The magic of charming existed in beautiful beings of this world. It activated at a pretty amazing timing, but anyway Nachim who had been [charmed], looked at Lily like a girl smitten in love and didn’t raise any voice.

As if forgetting his existence altogether, Lily looked back towards the Head.

“Head-san, I understand that it’ll be tough but you have no choice but to abandon the Kuar village. Even we fairies have already abandoned our home—“

And Lily brought out the Artifact, Queen Beryl.

“This, this is, no way.....”

In front of the dense magical energy, even village head who had no real knowledge of magic, understood what it was.

“That’s right. This is the jewel that brought about the divine protection in the fountain of light. But due to the coming of Crusaders, the divine protection of the fairy queen has been lost. ‘We’ fought hard against them but the fountain of light will never return to what it was.”

With Lily’s sad words, the village head could understand what might have happened to that sacred place.

At the same time, Kurono also heard about this for the first time but didn’t show much surprise since he probably might have guessed it already.

“Now you understand right? What you people are supposed to do now?”

Saying that, Lily returned to Kurono’s side and left while pulling his arm with her.

“.....Let’s run away. To Spada.”

And thus, the bell of evacuation of Kuar village rang inside the village.

Chapter 74 – Detestable Woman (1)

With Irz as centre, in the opposite direction of Kuar village was a village which was currently being used as a base by the Crusaders. This unit was the same unit to which Kievan once belonged to.

After the messenger had left after giving the report, only the commander of the unit and his aide were remaining.

“To think that Kievan’s squad was annihilated, was there a dragon or something in the Irz village?”

The one who frowned as he said that was the commander, Priest Head Norz.

On his waist hung a steel mace. He looked like a warrior Monk and was a man in his middle ages.

“Not a dragon but a ‘devil’. Were you not listening?”

It was definitely not a way to talk to a superior, but the one who had said that with a cold gaze was the aide, Sister Sylvia.

With red flame like hair and a comfortable habit that showed her bodyline, it was a truly stylish look.

Norz looked at her giant breasts that were lifted as she folded her arms beneath them, but he only sighed in irritation rather than getting aroused.

(“This damned redhead! She only speaks irritating things everytime she opens her damned mouth!!”)

The only reason he didn’t say this out loud was not because he was a feminist but because the one who selected her as his aide specially was Cardinal Mercedes himself.

No matter how charming she was, he was not an idiot enough to lay his hands on the woman of his superior.

Of course, the Cardinal could not protect her in this faraway Pandora continent and Norz could kill her whenever he wanted.

But, if she didn't return alive, it'll only lead to a drop in his own reputation as a commander and not to mention that he might incur the Cardinal's personal enmity as well.

Although not as outspoken as Kievan, even he had his own aspirations and so having Sylvia return alive safely had become an important part to get his promotion.

For his own bright future he somehow held himself back.

"I know. In actuality, it must have been a black magician adventurer with high skill."(Norz)

"I am more interested in the existence that annihilated the force that went to gain control of the sanctuary (T/N: she's talking about the fountain)."(Sylvia)

"They might have been attacked by just monsters though. They call the forest a dungeon after all."

They might have encountered an unexpectedly strong monster and might have gotten themselves annihilated.

But still, if that was not so, then it meant that there was an enemy army among the enemy demons that has the power to destroy a whole squad.

Along with the 'devil' that destroyed Kievan's party, there was also an 'army of demons' that could annihilate the whole suppression squad. That meant that the enemies would be much more troublesome than he thought.

"In any case, we should quickly dispatch a scouting squad."(Sylvia)

To Sylvia's opinion, Norz replied,

"I'll leave info gathering to you. Do as you wish."(Norz)

"I would do so even if you didn't say that."(Sylvia)

Tch, while clicking his tongue, Norz continued his words.

“We’ll complete the controlling of this village by tomorrow. After that we’ll move the main force towards Irz. In the end, there’s no change to that.”

There was no need to panic; they won’t let a capturable land get away.

Within this one month, Norz thought to finish his work without any delays.

“But still, to have lost the whole of Kievan’s squad is a bit severe.”(Sylvia)

“It doesn’t matter even if that pretentious brat dies.”(Norz)

“At least he was a better warrior than you.”

A vein popped out on Norz’s temple, but as if not even noticing her superior’s reaction, Sylvia continued speaking.

“Kievan’s squad had quite a lot of magicians, and the soldiers weren’t some newbies either. Counting the number——“

“Aa~Aa~ I get it, I get it, it was my fault!”(Norz)

If he kept on hearing this quietly, Norz felt that he’ll end up punching this beautiful woman in her face and so decided to yield first.

“As long as you understand. If you can’t even grasp the abilities of your soldiers properly, you fail as a commander. Nobody will entrust their lives to you. Also, the demons have resisted at much bigger level than ever before. Try not be so careless, Priest Head Norz. Now then, I need to select the members for the scout team so I’ll excuse myself.”

Sylvia left without sparing even a single glance towards Norz, left the house.

“Shit, she really is a nasty woman!!”

Chapter 75 – Nasty Woman

“What are you planning to do from now on, Kurono?”

When I returned to Kuar Village’s adventurer guild, I questioned Kurono.

I can keep my conscience of the adult me by borrowing the power from Queen Beryl, though my appearance doesn’t change.

That’s why I can talk with Kurono about serious matters. I did a good job in bringing this.

“It’s already decided to escape to Spada. Naturally, I will guard the evacuation as an adventurer. The emergency quest will also be soon posted.”

What Kurono is saying is right. I have persuaded village head Nahad and the emergency warning bell has already rung.

For abandoning the village, every villager will soon start evacuating as a form of mass mobilization. Furthermore, the non-villagers in other words the adventurers will also have to cooperate under the name of emergency quest.

The Adventurer Guild are spread all over the Pandora continent. Even if Daedalus has collapsed, we can still get the reward for emergency quest in Spada.

It is a dangerous quest when we don’t even know the war potential of the enemy, but there is no reason to refuse when we can get an equivalent reward.

“I won’t know how things will end up unless I don’t work.”

Kurono is saying the right thing as an rank 1 adventurer, but

“It is bad then Kurono. Try to think what will happen from now on.”

Kurono makes a surprised face for a moment as if he thought he

won't be said something like or that thing from the child me and then speaks

"The biggest problem is whether Spada will accept us or not, isn't it? I also don't know whether they will accept the petition which we sent along with the messenger. The second is how to act when the pursuit squad of the Crusaders come after us. It will be really good if Spada deploy soldiers for the safety of refugees but even that might be futile due to us being from Daedalus. So in the end us adventurers and vigilante corps should make countermeasures, don't you think so?"

Un, You're right.

Without any hope of getting reinforcements from outside, we have to make our way somehow using the war potential at hand.

"It's useless to think about the entry in Spada right now, it will work one way or another if we make racket near the national border. The problem right now is how the adventurer coming along with us will act."(Lily)

The head of the vigilante corps is that person, that pig, a man without any distinction. A smooth undisturbed cooperation is most likely a hope.

Without any hope there it's best to leave that matter alone. For the time being it's to think about the adventurers.

"After this many adventurers will meet us. Kuar has more adventurers than irz, and along the way to Spada there are many villages, so the adventurers will keep on adding. First we have to decide who will stand on top, though they might work on equal terms too."

"Yep, that's what I wanted to say"

"Who will stand on top?"

He returns an understanding phrase with a big smile, then Kurono sighs with a painful expression. Ufufu he has good perceptiveness.

“By any chance, you saying I should stand on top?”

“That’s right! Work hard Kurono!”

“No, no way in hell, it is impossible, after all I’m a rank 1 adventurer? In these situations only the one with the top rank does the job. I heard here is a party of rank 4, shouldn’t they fit the job.”

If there are quests requiring multiple parties cooperation, then it is natural for the person with the most top rank to lead them.

It’s not like the rank is everything, that is only for exception within the the top rankers which is full of those who are not popular or are only strong.

Having a big rank is the proof of experience and strength. With just that much of career a person’s name can be well known within other parties.

Even a person with somewhat low rank can become a leader if he has a lot of connections with many people and is well-known.

At this point, the people knowing Kurono the adventurers from Irz are all annihilated, it’s impossible for a Rank 1 person to become a leader.

“But Kurono you’re forgetting the basic of the basics, the constant law of nature.”

“Haa?”

“Ufufu, the strongest person stands at the top.”

It might not be understandable to Kurono who came from a peaceful world, but the survival of fittest is the most basic principle and theory in this world.

That is something even the monsters know, there are no flocks of them with a weak person as their boss.

That is even applied in the our society, furthermore within the adventurer who are accompanied with some problems all the time.

The strength cannot be changed and is the most valued thing here.

Popularity? Virtue? Things like that don't matter, there is no adventurer here who objects for the most strong person to lead them.

"Oh, Then isn't Lily the most strong her—"

"Don't mind me!!"

"I, I see....."

It is good if Kuroono understood me.

"But that isn't the only reason for why should you be leading the adventurers. Only Kuroono knows the strength of Crusaders within the adventurers here. And if someone from that rescue unit was to lead, they will make a big mistake at the start by underestimating them."

At the very least, that pig claiming to be the leader of the unit will definitely make a mistake.

First of all, they don't have analysed their war potential at all. They are just muscle-brained idiots who are contempt with them dying on the front lines in a flashy manner.

"That's true, I don't think they will not underestimate the crusader."

"Isn't that right, the enemy's war potential is overwhelming, we will be wiped out if we make even one mistake. I don't want to fight under someone I cannot trust. Ah, maybe I should say I won't fight unless Kuroono is the leader."

Kuroono shows a surprised expression on hearing those words.

But I have to clearly say these things.

"Even I don't want to do something that will massacre all the refugees but you see the most thing for me is that I and Kuroono survive. You are giving of the vibe that you will fight even if you have to throw your life away. I'm really worried."

The half of the speech was a complete lie, I don't give a shit about abandoning the lives of others.

I don't even have to compare the value of Kurono and other people. This won't change even if compared to hundred of people or thousands of people.

But I don't want Kurono to know about all of this. It's fine if he understands only the good parts like I'm concerned about his well being for now.

"Sorry.....It's just as you say. Furthermore Lily even healed the villagers and is being more helpful than me."

Ah, I only did that thinking it would improve your mental health, don't worry about it.

"I'm happy that you're worried about me, but, just because of something like that I can't stop fighting. Fighting is all I can do."

"er well..., I'm not stopping you from doing even that. But you know right, that when fighting with life on line you have to fight with all the cards you have."

"Aa, the danger level is completely different from the rank 1 quests, I can't just leave it to others. Okay, I will become the leader of adventurers."

Kurono declares boldly. As expected his face full of vigor is really awesome.

Go for it! While passing on the ale to him, I'm secretly make my heart flutter.

"But, I don't have even a pinch of experience in leading. So you will become my support."

"Leave it to me!"

But even I don't have an experience of that sort.

Not like it matters. I will use each and every other adventurer for

my and Kurono's sake.

Worst case, only we both reach Spada. Well, they should do their best by at least becoming the baits or something for us.

Chapter 76 – With the seat of Leader on the line

Inside the lobby of the Kuar village guild, numerous adventurers could be seen.

Currently, every adventurer of Kuar as well as those that were currently here coincidentally had gathered here, so it was only natural that it would be crowded.

Usually, adventurers are on their quests and wouldn't be together like this but—

Emergency Quest – Escorting the evacuees

Reward – Undecided

Deadline – Undecided

Client – Daedalus Adventurer Guild

Quest details – it has been decided that all villagers will be evacuated to Spada. The escort along the journey will be done by the Vigilante corps of the respective villages. The adventurers are required to act as the rear guard and protect the villagers from the enemy. Details regarding the enemy are only that it is an army of humans. It is a quest of danger level exceeding any of those till now but the lives of all the villagers are riding on you people. Brave adventurers please take part.

.

And thus, each and every adventurer here was compulsorily made to accept the emergency quest.

Every adventurer here knew what an emergency quest meant of course but their concern was regarding how to complete this quest.

And currently the 9 parties and 10-odd solo adventurers, a total of 50 adventurers, were talking to decide who will be the one in lead

right now.

“Ha! A small-fry who isn’t even rank 4 should stay out of this!!”

No, to be exact, they were fighting with each other.

The light armoured adventurer was blown away with a dull sound.

Where he fell lay many other who couldn’t move any more.

“I will be the one to lead you bastards!! Anybody who gotta a problem with dat step forward!!” (T/N: he speaks roughly so that was the best I could do. Sounds like a wannabe tho lol)

The one who howled that was a 2 meter tall werewolf.

But he wasn’t just huge, trained muscles could be seen behind his grey fur, and numerous old scars all over his body displayed his amazing experience as well.

“What happened?! Is there no one who can take on this immortal Vulcan-sama!? (T/N:yeah he calls himself with a ‘sama’)

The fight for the position of the leader had been overwhelmed by this werewolf called Vulcan.

The shining gold guild card hanging around his neck was a proof of his rank.

Among the few rank 4 adventurers in Kuar village, he was clearly above in power.

The rank 4 party Kurono was talking about was his [Vulcan Powered].

All the adventurers understood that to have his own name in the party name so grandly meant that he was the strongest even in his team and it was a stereotypical one-man team.

And in fact, everyone except Vulcan were rank 3 adventurers.

Party rank was not raised due to a single member’s rank, but to

have a rank 4 party even with everyone else at rank 3 meant that the guild had acknowledged that he alone gave the whole party the strength of a rank 4 party.

“fun, if there’s no one left then it’s decided.”

Vulcan looked at the surrounding adventurers with a sharp eye so as to overpower them.

Although it had become a fight in the end, Vulcan’s power was acknowledged by everyone and besides he even had the experience as the leader of a party so the adventurers weren’t really dissatisfied. Either.

With the words [It’s decided], silence finally came to the lobby.

The moment he smiled while seeing that there were no objections,

“Wait.”

A single man came in front of him.

“HUUH?”

A man dressed in complete black with black hair and black eyes.

Although he was tall for a human, but from Vulcan’s point of view, everyone was small.

“I’ll become the leader after defeating you.”

“Ohho?”

To have said that straight like him, there was no one among those he had blown away just now.

And in actuality, someone who was dissatisfied with Vulcan had come to hit him.

“Alright. Come at me boy. Don’t think I’ll hold back just ‘cause you’re a weak little human magician, alright?”

Cracking his fists, Vulcan released a beast-like bloodlust.

“I’m not a boy, my name is Kurono.”

Kurono who showed no signs of getting scared, Vulcan wondered whether he had confidence in his skills or was he just an idiot.

“Alright Kurono, I’ll say this just in case but no use of weapons is allowed. If you try and defeat me with a hidden weapon, no one’s gonna follow ya.”

“I know. I’ll fight bare handed.”

Vulcan became sure of his victory.

(“A magician bare handed could never defeat me. I’m not called immortal for nothing boy. Well, I ain’t gonna lose even if he used weapons though.”)

Magicians can use magic even without staffs or grimoires but the power would clearly fall a lot.

It’s not like a magician can’t use a strong magic even without them, he could use one after a long chant, but in such a situation where the distance between them was less than 10m, a magician could only fight back with a single action magic.

If the magician can defeat with his single action then he can surely win, but if it fails to defeat then obviously he will definitely lose. Even a magician could try punching back at least once though.

Vulcan who was called the immortal, had confidence in his physical strength, but that’s not all. He also had the Extra magic of the werewolves [Auto Heal] as well.

As the name implies, it had the effect of healing any part that got damaged.

But since it takes time for the healing to complete, if a damage like getting his heart pierced, or head chopped off, or a similar attack, was taken, he would still die instantly.

Except those, he could reduce any other damage to almost null, especially in a fist fight like this where only small attacks are

allowed.

Thus, whether it be a magician's punch or single action, he could take them on ten times and still be standing normally.

From the common sense of an Adventurer, a single action could only be used once or twice consecutively which was the limit for a magician.

("No matter what, he won't be able to fire more than 4 times. Even if this boy's power of a single shot was many times stronger than a normal magician, he still would never be able to defeat me.")

Vulcan took his stance, it didn't matter if fire came or thunder came, he decided to charge straight forward and punch this impudent magician directly on his face.

"I'll wait till you fire, after all, it'll be boring if you fall without getting to fire even once right?"

"Why thank you—here I come."

"Come at me!"

DON!! A sound resounded twice at the same time.

One was due to Vulcan stepping on the floor and the other was Kurono firing his magic.

A black bullet was fired towards Vulcan's body.

("Something like this will never—")

Stop him. Every adventurer here thought the same.

But, that was only if it was just a single shot.

"Magic bullet arts – release all bullets Full Burst."

Instantly, numerous black bullets rushed towards the giant enemy Vulcan.

"Gaaaaaaaahhh!!!!"

Vulcan could take on ten single action attacks consecutively but what would happen if it was a 100 shots or a 1000 shots.

Of course, there was no way he could take it on.

To avoid injuring him fatally, the bullets were softer as well as the head was made round, but the impact was still the same. A normal human would have fainted with just a single shot.

Vulcan certainly withstood ten attacks but the damage that was dealt in an instant was too much to be covered by his Auto Heal.

“Guh.....oo.....”

After he was 2m near Kurono he finally fell to his knees.

By that time, all the bullets from [Load] were also used up.

“To not faint even after taking all the bullets, as expected of a Rank 4, you’re pretty tough.”

As Kurono admired the figure of Vulcan who was still showing bloodlust and had yet to faint, Kurono dealt the final blow calmly without letting his guard down.

Raising his fist, he rushed forward by kicking the floor.

Why a magician would go all the way to use his fists, the gallery wondered but they soon got their answer.

Because Kurono released his fastest and first most original black magic.

Instantly magical energy concentrated in his arm.

“Pile Bunker.”

The concentrated magic that rotated like a drill had power incomparable to a single bullet.

Vulcan, who had been overwhelmed by the hail of bullets, had neither the physical strength nor the concentration to stop it.

Black magical energy released from Kurono's arm and dull sound of hitting Vulcan's body reverberated inside the whole guild.

In just a few seconds, the battle had concluded.

Vulcan fell on the floor as he lost his consciousness as Kurono declared in an imposing voice.

"I am the leader. Anybody who has a problem with that, step forward."

It was the same line Vulcan had said just a moment ago.

And thus, not a single one came out who objected this.

Chapter 77 – Formation (1)

During the time Kurono was in a battle with Vulcan for the leadership of adventurers, in a certain guest room there were Fiona and Lily.

“What did you want to talk fairy-san?”

“I was thinking of making an agreement with you”

Though Lily is in her small form, but it can be concluded that her consciousness was of her original form from her way of answering the question from Fiona-san.

“What sort of agreement?”

“I want you to form a party with us.”

The meaning of the words Lily spoke can be understood by any adventurer, no, any common person in this world.

The basics of adventurer are obviously to fight along with comrades, the party play strategy.

It is not rare for for someone to have a good cooperative relationship with any unfamiliar adventurer due to completing one quest together, but normally people complete quests with their own pre formed parties.

After submitting the Party name and the names of all the members of the party, it is then treated as an official party.

Still, it is not a problem to join up with another person and complete a quest without registering as a party. Through registering as a party, it is easy for gaining guild's favor and also easy to appeal the accomplishment of the works of party.

“A party with you and Kurono-san ?”

“Un, we still haven't thought of any name for the party but if you enter, we will have to. So how about it?”

Fiona wavered for a second and,

“I refuse”

she refused without any hesitation.

“Is it alright for me to hear the reason?”

Lily doesn't show any signs of being mad at the answer, but rather she boldly smiles and questions.

It was an evil grin that she can not show to Kurono.

“I'm not good for this job. There is no party which has kept me after 3 days from forming the party, there is also the possibility of being kicked out during a quest”

Though Fiona is expressionless, that experience must have been a trauma for her. Lily sensed the slight waver in her stable heart.

But even after knowing it, Lily has not in the least of intention to comfort her.

It is important to get Fiona into Lily's pace and Fiona's feeling don't matter at all.

They can get a decent party which is impossible normally, just due to the addition of a very powerful witch named Fiona.

“I know you're unbelievably clumsy at control magic, still I'm asking for you to join.”

“Why do you know that?”

Fiona inquires without showing a sign of being surprised.

“I've never seen anyone using a mere 'Ignis Shield' in a flashy manner as you did.”

“I see, the fairy tribe are knowledgeable in magic.”

Fiona is still not surprised, it was as if she had been told same thing before too.

“I am a special one, don’t confuse me with those lousy flies.”

At the very least, within the Kuar village only Lily has the most knowledge and analysing power for magic.

She has never learned about it, it is nothing more than something present in her from the time she was born.

“Let’s put your feelings aside right now, but I want you to understand the concerns on my side.”

Fiona unhesitantly asked ‘What do you mean’ at Lily’s words.

“I don’t want to let a dangerous witch be free, who can burn 100 villages in all directions while Kurono is fighting Crusaders for the refugees to safely escape. Looks like I said it the wrong way? I’m the only one who values highly about your power. I definitely want that offensive power near me.”

Lily speaks compliments with a lovely smile on her face.

“Thank you very much, you’re the second person to ever compliment me about my magic.”

Lily understood that the words spoken by Fiona are not sarcasm but from the bottom of her heart.

“Ufufu, looks like there are only idiots in Arc continent. And I’m not only taking you as a powerful adventurer but also as a higher position called ‘Comrade’. In this case, I will also offer you a place where you can use your ‘uncontrollable’ magic power without any restrictions. Well it is not me but Kurono who will think about this though.”

Fiona looks down while pondering.

Lily thinks that “Seems like one last push is needed”.

“If you’re a good adventurer who wants to save the pitiful villagers, then I really want you to come with us. If you want to return to Spada alone for self-protection, I won’t stop you and if you want to go back to being a Crusader , I will kill you right here.”

"I have no intention of going back to being a Crusader, and am thinking of helping with the emergency quest as an adventurer of Pandora Continent."

Fiona replies immediately. Lily smiles as if the reply she gave was obvious.

"You're honest. I can understand you have no lingering feelings with the Crusaders and you don't like the massacre. And I think you have no reason to reject my offer?"

Fiona stills ponders.

But this time she swings her head vertically.

"That is right, if you're willing to take me in, I don't have a reason to reject."

"I see, Thank you"

Lily welcomes Fiona with a big smile who agreed for the entering their party.

"Nh.....It is about time"

"For what?"

"There is no more time for me to retain my adult consciousness, so listen carefully."

Fiona already knows about Lily having two consciousnesses, so she, without asking any questions, agrees.

"The leader of party is Kurono, he will be coming here soon. Properly do the introductions and then listen to his orders."

"Understood."

Fiona nods obediently.

"And for you to not get pulled to another party let me telling you our best points"

Though Lily is in small form , she sends a perfect wink to Fiona.

“What is it?”

“Kurono comes from a really, really far away country, so he makes many unfamiliar dishes, for the time you are with us you will get to eat various unfamiliar tasty foods. Ufufu don’t think that popsicles are the only sweet thing we have.”

Those words got attention of Fiona more than anything. It wasn’t required to even read her mind for that, as she bends and approaches towards Lily.

“Is that.....really true?”

“Un, a pudding for example.”

“Wh-What is that ‘Pudding’ food that seems really sweet with just it’s name.”

Fiona recalls every sweet taste she has tasted. but her expectations rise enormously due to an never heard food name.

“Find that out by yourself”

“I will confirm it immediately.”

Fiona replies with a voice of empty stomach.

“Ah, let me tell you one last rule to you.”

“What would it might be?”

Lily replied with a lovely smile mixed with a little bit of bloodlust mixed.

“Having romantic relationships is forbidden within our party, don’t forget this ever.”

After saying that. she falls down on the bed

Soon after that, a cute sleeping breath reaches the ears of Fiona.

Chapter 78 – Formation (2)

“Fuu.....It really was nerve wracking.....”

While sighing, I head towards the guest room where Lily is waiting.

But still how could I say “I am the leader. Anybody who has a problem with that, step forward.”. Ah, I’m so embarrassed.

Well, after demonstrating the power, an imposing attitude is needed after all.

Though I still have a great doubt whether how I acted was the right thing to do.

“Anyway, rank 4 really are dangerous.”

During the battle of Vulcan it might have looked like my one-sided victory, in truth I didn’t feel that much difference between our powers.

I was able to win just because I had good compatibility against him.

Vulcan is an power fighter just as he looks. He attacked with the intention of stopping my attacks directly.

Any ordinary magician wouldn’t be able to stop his charge and would be knocked out. After all he withstood my 10 magic bullets at point-blank range while suffering no damage at all.

Not only the toughness of his body, but also his power, speed, reaction speed and physical capacity were some levels above my enhanced body.

“I doubt if we once again fight, it would go this easy.”

For now let’s pray for that situation to never come.

According to Lily “After becoming a leader never show your weak side or else you’ll be underestimated.”. So I can’t show my uneasiness to Vulcan or others.

Well it might be fine for me to maintain my normal expression on face to naturally speak something like “Hey, don’t you dare slack off!”

While thinking that, I reach the guest room and knock at door.

“Lily, I’m back”

“Ah Kurono-san, come in”

Nh, this voice, is it Fiona-san?

The door opened, and there stood Fiona-san.

Upon entering the room, I find Lily lying down on bed, she must have gone to sleep due to tiredness.

“I heard Lily had some business with Fiona-san, is it over?”

I casually ask,

“Yes, I was told you have a sweet thing called ‘Pudding’”

She replied with a tilted head.

“Ha? Pudding?”

“You don’t have pudding?”

Fiona-san stares at me with golden eyes filled with extreme expectations.

“No, I don’t have it? I didn’t go away to cook you know?”

Even if you looks at me with those eyes, I can’t help with things I don’t have.

Fiona-san shows a depressed expression.

Eh, what is this feeling like I’m the bad guy here?

“If you want to eat it, I will make it later”

“Is it true?”

She suddenly got better, somehow this reaction reminds me of the time I gave her popsicle.

“I will make it later, right now it is impossible. I am busy with the emergency quest, I don’t have the ingredients and don’t expect that it will be very good or not.”

“It will be fine. Let’s work hard to safely complete the evacuation.”

Thank you for brave words. I will find a kitchen when we reach Spada for sure.

“Then let us think about the name for our party at once.”

“Eh?”

“Eh?”

Umm, looks like Fiona-san and I are not even on the same page?

What the hell was this talk about? Party? Is it the party for celebrating after the evacuation is completed?

“I’m a member of Kurono-san’s party, aren’t I?”

“Is that so?”

“Am I wrong?”

Hell with this conversation, always ending with a question mark.

Calm down, Don’t lose myself, I have to somehow find the hidden meaning behind Fiona-san’s completely unrelated words.

Talk with Lily, Pudding, Party member.....

“erm, was your talk with Lily regarding your addition to our party?”

“Yes”

Bingo! I'm completely right!

"I now understand, completely understand."

"I'm grateful that you have agreed to it."

OK, now were getting on the same page.

"I will ask this just for being convinced but, are you really alright with entering our party?"

"Yes, according to Lily-san, I'm an wild witch who can burn 100 villages in all directions but still, take care of me from now on."

Eeee, what is with that ultra-suspicious self-introduction. I never heard Lily giving that dangerous evaluation to Fiona-san.

"Is it alright for me to understand it as that you excel at using magic?"

"Yes, I have confidence in the 'firepower' of my magic. I can turn enemy and ally both to ash without any concerns."

Not putting in a tsukkomi here, I calm down myself and ask

".....Can't you just burn only the enemy to cinders?"

"I'm a little clumsy at controlling my magical power. Still I was passionately invited, so I decided to join the party."

Fiona-san snorts and puffs out her chest full of confidence.

"I-I see, well Lily is fine with it so there is no problem. Well then best regards from me too, You're welcome to our party."

I have no choice but to accept her in, though her self-introduction was completely suspicious.

Even I trust Fiona-san's magical firepower, after all she saved me from the rain of arrows with a wall of flame.

And she is also the saviour of my life, I have no more reason to refuse.

“Yes, thank you very much.”

We both shake hands and here the agreement is completed.

“Kurono-san”

Fiona-san shows a painful expression, I wonder now what is she going to confess.

“This is something Lily-san knows, I want to tell you too.”

“What is it?”

I wait for her next words being somewhat nervous.

“I’m a person from Arc continent.”

“.....what the hell”

“Do you detest me?”

I reflexively start accumulating magical power for firing of the magic bullets. Though she may have not known about that, she must have already read through me due to the bloodlust I am oozing unconsciously.

“Sorry, just wait a bit.”

She came from Arc continent that would mean that she has the same position as that of the Crusaders.

Is she the same as those insane Crusaders who brought destruction to Irz Village. Is she the same kind and race as them? I cannot let her live, shouldn’t I kill her right now?

“I am glad I didn’t have the hatchet.”

If I had, I would’ve been devoured by those emotions.

Calm down, right now it is important to hear the story of Fiona-san.

First of all she saved me and Lily also has accepted her that would mean she is not a bad person.

“I’m fine. Tell me your story.”

“Yes, but from where should I start telling.”

It is the manner of adventurers to not pry into someone’s past, so it’s better to leave it.

“Right now I don’t want to hear about your life story or whether you were a Crusader or have you killed people on Pandora continent. Just tell me what you can tell.”

“Understood, but I don’t have any past that I must hide.

I went to the Magic School in Elysion, after graduating I didn’t have any new aim so I participated in the expedition as a mercenary.

but the food was not good and the place was very uncomfortable, so I left.”

‘You really betrayed them for such a reason?’, I ask unconsciously to her.

This is not impossible if it is Fiona-san, but if told right to my face, it is hard to believe.

“I’m not a believer of Cross religion. And without taking any money I went through all the formalities for resigning, so I doubt that I betrayed them.”

“But will you be fine fighting the people from your home country with us.”

On that question, Fiona-san replied with sleepy face saying not like I care, so I’m fine.

“Country, Religion, Human or Demon, I don’t care about any of that.

Kurono-san you can think of me like yourself, a traveller who came here just on whim for a faraway place.”

“Did you hear that from Lily?”

“I only heard you’re an inhabitant of a really far country. That’s why, think of my place of origin as meaningless, and I also don’t have any lingering affection towards it,”

I don’t know what place Arc continent is exactly like, but I can somewhat understand what Fiona-san is trying to say.

In short, she has nothing she wants to protect.

I don’t care if it’s a good thing or a bad thing, anyways the person known as Fiona-san is not affiliated to anywhere.

“I got it, I will trust you and you’re already a member of our party.”

“Is that really alright? I did participate in the previous invasion and have killed many people, are you willing to forgive that too?”

“It’s alright, that was your work as a mercenary, it’s just that now that has changed to some other work.”

I am already a murder myself, so I have no right to tell her that she has done wrong.

“I’m really grateful.”

“In Fact, I am really grateful that Fiona-san is an inhabitant of Arc continent.”

Now that I think about it, I, no, every adventurer and villager present here doesn’t know a single thing about Crusaders.

It is the situation where we have to fight an unknown enemy.

“I also roamed around the village a bit, but there wasn’t any person who knows about the the Crusaders or the Republic.”

“That’s right, even I have only heard that the name of the country is ‘Republic’”.

Information is the important factor at every time, and even more important when there is a fight with lives at stake.

There are many words claiming the importance of information like 'know your enemy, know thyself, and you shall not fear a hundred battles.' . Most probably, these are also told in this world.

I was granted with great luck, that I have met a person who know about Crusaders in an unexpected place, furthermore is my comrade.

I have a lot of things to ask, like the number of enemies, the equipment they use, morale, skill strength, their commander, and what are they thinking and trying to do.

"I'm really grateful that Fiona-san is our comrade, I'll take your help from now on, take of care of me then."

"Yes, thank you for accepting me."

Fiona-san's face is as usual unchanging but for some reason if had an expression of being relieved.

"I have a lot to ask you, but let's think about the party name for now, it will be problematic when naming ourselves without it,"

"You're right, let's think a really good name together."

I did gain the position of being the leader of adventurers due to the duel, but the one to lead them is not only me but the party I am in.

Now there are 3 people and there is also the need to introduce ourselves to adventurers, won't it be difficult to name ourselves without a party name.

"Aw man, I have never even once thought about the party name."

It would be a lie to say I never thought about it. During my high school days, I had to think about the names for organizations, agencies and squads in the Light Novels I used to write.

That this and that are different. I don't want the name of my party with extravagant names with words like God... or Destruction... .

A party name should indicate about myself, should the name be

indicating about my tall height.

“How do adventurers normally think about a party name?”

“Basically, everyone just thinks of what they like, let’s see, ah there are more cases of party names to be the exact names of the party leader.”

I see, Vulcan’s party name was also something like ‘Vulcan-powered’. [ET: Has author gone mad with naming sense and can’t write a normal design of story]

But that is only because he has more power than any other member in his party.

If we take the name of the strongest person in our party, we will turn into ‘Magical☆Lily’.

“There are also the cases of using the names of your birthplace, or class of members, characteristics, or even the name of legendary treasures.”

We are all from different places, furthermore my country can’t be found anywhere in this world. So we can’t even name ourselves like ‘Irz Bladers’ where all members were from the same place.

And I don’t know about the legends of this world as it is only a little over 1 year since I have come here, in addition to that I’m not even searching for some legendary treasure.

If i have to say, then I am searching for the summoning magic through which I can return to my own world, but right now I have no intention of searching it.

“Our common feature is, we all can use magic, right?”

“This really is an unreliable party without any vanguard.”

As a matter of fact you’re absolutely right. I make a wry smile and reply to her.

“I have only taken rank 1 quests, so it was good that I have not

given more time to fighting in close combats.”

“But if I use my magic, I’m sure the vanguard will get engulfed inside it. Rather I think this is much better.”

Just how much does this girl doesn’t believe in controlling her power.

No, I won’t return a tsukkomi to this, as it is something I was also worried about.

“now that I think about it Fiona-san is good at fire magic, right? You used the ‘Ignis Rampart’ to save me too.”

“Ah, that was just an ‘Ignis Shield’”.

What is that answer, you trying to appeal as the best or something?

“That was a genuine ‘Ignis Shield’, when I use any lower-grade magic, it changes to that size.”

Upon my question ‘What will happen when you fire offensive magic’, she replied calmly.

“In the case of ‘Ignis Sagita’, the range remains the same but it’s destructive power changes to that of ‘Ignis Fortis Sagita’”.

I see this definitely explains the ‘Enemy and ally will get burned to cinders’. I wonder what will happen if this is shot in cave or dungeon.....

If she doesn’t use it very carefully, it will turn into a big disaster.

But now I completely understand why Lily went through the trouble of letting her in our party.

The old Lily does think greatly, we can’t leave a bomb roaming here and there. There might be big explosions in unexpected situations.

“I excel at using Fire magic, and can use every other magic till intermediate level except the light and dark magic.”

She speaks in a boastful manner. I think that her fighting capabilities are great.

“Using 2 magic is not rare, but it’s my first time seeing someone who can use every magic.”

I can only use one damn black magic! Well complaining about myself is hurting me more. So I won’t do it anymore.

“If you add my dark and Lily’s white magic, we have all the types of magic.”

My black magic is completely different from model magic, but it doesn’t change the fact that I can manifest the dark magic with this too.

Bullet arts are only the materialization of objects but Dimensional space is also a skill of dark magic.

“There are not many parties with every magic attributes. If a single person acquires it alone he can be called as the legendary ‘Element Master’.”

“Element Master, huh. This is good and cool.”

If one uses all the attributes, then it is easy to know the weakness in the magicians and monsters with other attributes. And can also intercept the enemy’s attack with the attribute with high resistance.

Though it is magic centered, but aren’t we pretty strong party.

“Is controlling every attribute called as Elemental Master?”

“That’s what they are called. All the elemental masters can use all the higher grade color magic, and make many exploits due to which their names are recorded in history. They are one of the ideals every magician has.”

oo, isn’t it great title which suggests we can use every magic.

“Well then let’s call us that from now on.”

“I feel it is good. Lily-san will also agree to it.”

And thus the party name was decided.

“OK, from now on we are Element Masters.”

Chapter 79 – Scorched Earth Tactics

“I’m the leader of [Element Master], Kurono.”

I introduced myself as the leader to the 50 adventurers in the lobby along with my newly created party name.

It was not something like a powerful speech made by the American president in a Hollywood movie. All we did was confirm the details of the quest, introducing the members who will have the central role etc.

Though everyone was obediently listening to me for the time being, but all I have shown till now is only my power I used while beating Vulcan. It will still take some time before they trust me as a proper leader as well.

For a rank 1 adventurer with almost no experience like me, I had no other choice but to shown clear achievements from here onwards.

As I resolved this, it was now the next day – 21st of the month of Shinyou.

“But, to not even able ride a horse properly, are you even an adventurer?”

“Shut up Vulcan, I’m concentrating right now, don’t disturb me.”

As we departed towards Irz village early morning, I had already started to make others doubt my abilities as a leader.

The one I’m currently straddled to is probably the high class giant horse that was used by the commander of the force that attacked the Irz Village. This horse that had long sleek black hair like a girl was captured while repulsing the Crusaders.

At first it was going to be taken by someone else but since I became the leader, I also ended up getting it as well. It seems the leader is supposed to ride the best horse at the front of the force always.

Well that's not all. It also seems to be a reward for me since I killed a lot Crusaders in Irz village.

I got a great horse but I was just a high school student in a literature club, half year as an experimental body and only three months as an adventurer. Just when the hell would I have had the time to learn something like horse-riding.

No, well I knew that horses were the best vehicle substitute in this world.

Even I wished to ride them one day but if you suddenly give me a horse and say 'Ride this and lead the adventurers in battle!', isn't it impossible?

Ah, by the way, Fiona-san splendidly climbed her horse and was smoothly running along the highway right now.

It seems she is a bit superior as an adventurer.....gununu.(T/N:Sound of getting irritated)

"Gahaha, try not to fall down hard, Mr. newbie leader-san!"

"Shit, damned Vulcan, should I use full burst on you one more time...."

Riding a Bicorn proportionate to his own giant size, Vulcan laughed loudly as he passed by.

By the way, a Bicorn is a subspecies of the famous Unicorn.

As the name suggests, it has two brilliant horns and looked more like a goat rather than a horse but was infact big enough to let even the 2m tall Vulcan ride on it easily.

"I would have practiced this earlier if I knew this would happen."

"Kurono! Work Hard!"

"Thanks Lily, what would I do without you, seriously."

Lily sat in front of me. It looked like she was sitting there to not fall

off suddenly but it was actually the reverse. Thanks to Lily being here, I am able to show some speed even on my first try riding a horse and am not falling suddenly.

Fairies really have a fantasy-like power that allows them to connect with animals by just touching.

Thanks to that brilliant ability, Lily is working hard to prevent me from falling off from the horse. I really am useless. I end up depending on Lily for everything. Crap, I feel like crying now.

“Are you crying?”

“I’m not. Dirt entered my eyes a little——“

“Ah, don’t release your hands!!”

“Oh crap!?!——“

Please, reach the destination quickly.

As I prayed, I enjoyed my first time riding a horse.

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Our destination currently is not Spada but the deserted Irz village.

As the representative of the 12 adventurers that came here, Vulcam came to ask me.

“We are too many for scouting but too few for making a defensive line. What’s the purpose behind us coming here?”

“Sorry for not explaining in advance since I was in a hurry. Well I wanted to explain en route but, you saw my sorry state. Really sorry.”

The adventurers laughed a bit but I ignored it and continued explaining.

“We came here to burn each and every store house and warehouses here in Irz Village.”(kuroono)

“What?”

Maybe because my answer was unexpected or imprudent, everyone looked at me with cold gazes.

“You bastard, do you even realize what you’re saying? Isn’t this your village as well? How can you say something like that so easily?”

“I understand you will oppose this but this is a plan to stop and slow down the enemy, so I want you to understand.”

As I expected, the adventurers are well versed in killing monsters and survival skills, but they are not knowledgeable about proper Military tactics and strategies.

Even a person from peaceful japan has knowledge about strategies, well that might be over exaggerating but, I still learnt a lot through various mediums like novels, documentaries, and fiction.

“This is called scorched earth tactics.”

“Scorched earth tactics?”

So they really haven’t even heard of it. They look at me with wondering gazes.

“Simply speaking, it’s a strategy to destroy any facility or food products that might be used and taken by the enemy before running away.”

“.....haa”

It seems this Vulcan can’t even use his head as expected. Other adventurers seemed to understand a bit from my short explanation.

“If the enemy finds large amounts of food stocked here, that means they’ll be able to eat well, that in turn means that they’ll be able to fight sooner. Understand?”(kuroono)

Since we are trying to hold them off, it'll be troublesome for us if they can fight quickly.

"Oo, basically, we have no reason to gift the enemy with meals, right!?"(Vulcan)

"That's right. If the enemy is unable to procure food locally, they'll have to bring it from other places. That will further make their advance slower than normal. What's important for us is to buy enough time to run away to Spada. This'll help in achieving it without fighting them directly."

"I understand the logic more or less."

Vulcan made a face like he understood only half of it but continued,

"But is that fine? Will the villagers accept burning away all their food they had stocked till now?"(Vulcan)

"Vulcan, you actually were thinking about the villagers? You are good guy unlike what your face suggests."(kurono)

"Shaddup! So, what is it!?"

I don't know whether he's embarrassed or actually angry but he approached me with a threatening look.

"Everyone won't agree with it, they'll definitely go against it. That's why I came back now when the evacuation of Kuar village is finished."

"You're gonna deceive them?"

"I'll take the help of Village Head Nahad to somehow persuade the villagers later. Right now, it's more important to hold the Crusaders back as much as possible. After the evacuation to Spada is complete, I don't mind no matter how much they blame or condemn me. But till that time, I'll do whatever it takes to use the best plans and policies available. That's why I became the Leader. That's why, please, trust me during just this quest at least."

If they don't accept me here, then I would have really failed.

I didn't show it on my face but I was anxious whether they would accept me with just these few words.

But, near my legs, Lily smiled and said 'It's alright!'.

"Whatever. We decided that you're the leader. Noone's gonna complain now. But, if you fuck up even once, I'll change with you as the leader, don't forget that."

Vulcan really is a good guy even with that face. I could only hear that as 'I'll change with you even if you mess up, so don't worry'.

"Thanks. I'll give out simple instruction so hear me——"

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Just like how I came here on a horse, everyone else also came here while riding on something.

Just like how I didn't have a horse, not everyone had ways to travel fast.

In this different world that could be compared to the Middle Ages on Earth, the cost of horses wasn't very high but it was still not something anyone could easily get.

To have a personal horse was natural for only Rank 3 and above adventurers.

And the number of adventurers that came with me right now were 12 excluding me, Lily and Fiona-san.

Most had horses, but there were some that used monsters as mounts like the Bicorn used by Vulcan or the Giant Ghoul used by the Skeleton race Magician, etc.

By the way, a ghoul wasn't a zombie but was a hyena like monster of the Undead race.

Think of the mount used by this Skeleton-san as a giant zombie dog.

There are times where a party uses a carriage to travel but this time only the members of [Vulcan Powered] were using it.

Vulcan had a giant body so he chose to ride on his favourite Bicorn instead.

The reason I chose a horse rather than going by foot was, as I explained earlier, because we didn't have much time.

Since it's an army of only humans so one could calculate and estimate the time required to come here, but in the end it was just an estimate.

Raising the speed through magic, or transferring a unit itself, could also be possible.

As long as the opponent's tricks and hands were still unknown, it's better for us to be as fast as possible.

And thus, we needed to burn all the food here in Irz village before the Crusaders come here.

If possible I want to destroy the village head's house, the guild building and other big buildings as well.

Their troops had been deployed with the guild as a centre so it's confirmed that they were using it as the command centre.

Destroying useful buildings and burning food and grains was what Scorched Earth tactics is meant to be.

"Did Kurono-san go to a knight school or something?"

"No, I only went to a 'normal' school. I didn't learn this properly. I'm just trying to make use of what an amateur like me knows about tactics. I'm actually doubtful of how much effect will it have."

As I gave an explanation I continued to prepare burning the grains etc.

The only one who asked was Fiona-san, but it seems the rest were hearing as well.

“Also, this isn’t a perfect scorched earth tactic either this time. It might have no effect at all as well.”

“Is that so? Not having food is fatal in my opinion; I wouldn’t be able to bear it at all.”

Well it might be true for Fiona-san who quit her work because the food was bad.

“Normally, it would be perfect to burn away the fields, houses and even the nearby forests as well. Also, this tactic is the most effective in snowy, cold areas. If they lose food along with fuel to light fire, it could kill them there and then.”

“I see. I did hear things even in the Republic about abandoning invasion due to hard winters.”

Well, it’s common even in my world.

“We are low on time as well as manpower, so we can only pray that an incomplete one will also have some effect.”

As my final ‘parting gift’ I poured the final oil can on the grain storehouse.

With this, the preparations are complete. All that’s left is to put some fire on it and the whole warehouse will go up in flames.

When I was about to do that, Lily pulled my robe.

“n, what happened Lily?”

I thought she might want to say something against me burning the hardwork of villagers as well, but I saw unrest in those eyes of hers that had become serious.

“Oi Kurono, the enemy is coming here!”

The one who shouted that was an Elf girl with a bow who was a

member of the [Three hunting Princesses] that had been keeping watch of the surroundings.

She looked like a young girl, but she was a rank 3 veteran adventurer.

The girl stopped her horse in front of me and quickly explained the situation.

“Susan discovered 7 cavalry warriors coming here from the highway.”

Susan was a solo rank 4 thief.

She looked like a human but was actually of the slime race. I had asked her, who was quick witted to keep watch and it seems she has already discovered enemies.

“Only 7? Not more than that?”(kuroono)

“They are the only ones running on the highway.”(Elf)

It must be scouting unit.

“They must have come to check this place since their squad got repelled here.”(kuroono)

The enemy is an army of humans. They won't go through the trouble of making a large number of troops to avoid the highway and go through the forest to launch a surprise attack.

They have the superiority of numbers, so I doubt they'll decide not to launch a frontal attack.

“What shall we do?”(elf)

I didn't even need to think before answering.

“Attack them. Don't let even a single one get away alive.”(kuroono)

“Roger! That's how we like it!!”

The Elf girl showed a determined smile and left to tell others to get

ready for battle.

Chapter 80 – Scout Troop

About 2 Km away from Irz village, the scout troop dispatched by Norz's main troop was stationed.

“How is it?”

“It doesn't look like there are people in the village.”

The members of the scout troop stopped their magic [Hawk Eye] meant to look at distant things.

“I see. It seems all the villagers have run away.”

“Should we chase?”

“If they were still in sight then we could have. But they must have evacuated to the nearby village called Kuar. We won't make it in time now.”

The soldier agreed with the commanding officer's words. The two weren't surprised since they were already expecting it to be like this.

“Alright, let's search if there's someone still in the village, just in case. It'll be dark soon, we'll scout Kuar tomorrow so let's make a camp in Irz tonight.”

All the soldiers agreed.

“They seem to have run away in a hurry so we might find some silver coins as well but, don't stay up all night just to ‘look for treasure’.”

“That sounds like a difficult order.”

Hahaha, the two of them laughed lightly.

They weren't soldiers who received high wages so they could only gather ‘bonuses’ like this on-site locally.

“It's too bad we have no women even if we have money.”

“Don’t worry. A brothel will be set up sooner or later. Daedalus already has one with ‘local women’. Seriously, those merchants are damn quick.”

Though that’s good for us, he gave a twisted smile as he thought so.

“I don’t want demons as partners though.”

“I won’t mind if it’s just elf women, at least ——“

The commander looked behind him with a fed up face.

“Oi, Tsumiki ~ Tsumiki-chan ~ where did you go!?”

A single woman was shouting while moving between the soldiers.

“—they’ll be better than stupid adventurers like that.”

“What’s up with that woman?”

The soldier asked with a bored face.

“Like I know. That Sylvia nee-chan authorised her accompanying us so we can’t complain either.”

While choosing the members for scouting, this adventurer girl was added suddenly as if on a whim.

It was suspicious no matter how you think about it but they couldn’t do anything since it was an official order.

“In the first place isn’t it weird to hire ‘them’ even though we have enough numbers?”

It wasn’t rare to hire mercenaries inside the Syncrea Republic for campaigns. But that was only in cases where they lacked men to deploy.

The force deployed by Cardinal Mercedes under Norz had no problem regarding the number of soldiers.

But still, to have hired such mercenaries even then was unnatural no matter how you looked at it.

Even their equipment was different from the united Crusader equipment which made them stand out even more. Though, there existence wasn't something that required being hidden.

But still, the objective behind hiring them was still unclear.

"I don't know what the top brass is thinking but they didn't ask us to treat them specially either, so its best to leave them alone."

He wondered whether the adventurers hired had been given a special secret mission or not.

The ones with him looked all commonplace, especially that girl who kept shouting 'Tsumiki, tsumiki' didn't feel like an adventurer at all.

"Well, as long as they don't interfere with the mission, I don't really care."

Praying to god that the girl who was just a baggage for them doesn't cause any problems, the commanding officer continued the mission.

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The mysterious adventurer girl walked through the main street of Irz village alongside the commanding officer in the front.

The Crusaders could only think of her as a clumsy, dunce, newbie adventurer.

She was the lowest level among the adventurers but it seems that she still had the ability to at least ride a horse properly though.

"Ojou-chan, is that the tsumiki you were talking about?"

In front of them was a small cat with black fur. The silver collar around its neck showed that it was not a stray but a pet.

“Yes, cute right!?”

With a somewhat proud smile, she lifted [Tsumiki] with the nape of its neck and brought it in front of the commander.

As it's golden eyes met with the commander's, it gave a small nyaa cry.

“Also my name is Ai, remember it!”

“It's such a common name.”

“Don't say that...”

[Ai] puffed her cheeks in protest but it was the truth. It really was a common name in the republic.

“Rather than that, don't let that cat run away next time.”

“ahhahha, I'll make sure!”

The commander's sigh was drowned by the girl's laughter.

(“Isn't she really just a normal brat?”)

He looked at the girl with bored eyes.

She had a cute face with blue eyes and long golden hair tied up in a twintails hairstyle. Although, it really failed in practicality as an adventurer.

A magician would have been fine with long hair since he/she had the excuse of possessing magic, but she was an archer no matter how you looked at it. Her main weapon was a long bow made out of worn out wood.

The only type of protective armor she had was the leather breastplate, gloves and boots. Her upper body just had a thin shirt and her lower body had a miniskirt for some reason.

The silver bracelet on her right hand was the only thing that looked useful. But even that was a silver accessory of the lowest quality

that was giving off a weak light representing some kind of enhancement.

Rather an adventurer, she looked more like some town girl who decided to dress up as an adventurer. If she didn't have her slender and small yet well toned body, she really would not have looked like an adventurer at all.

("What were the upper guys thinking letting her participate in the campaign?")

As if to ridicule the commander who was thinking, the cat cried nyaa nyaa towards him.

"Why the hell is it a cat? Isn't the partner of a hunter with a bow supposed to be a dog?"

"Eh, but cats are cuter!"

("This girl is nuts. She brought an animal to keep as a pet.")

As he had said, a dog would have been much more useful.

A cat which didn't listen to the orders of its master was useless. In fact it was worse if it went missing in between.

"If we end up in a fight, look carefully after it."

"Leave it to me old man!!"

"I'm not an old man yet—"

That instant, the commander's head burst open.

"Wha?"

Ai stared at the figure of the commander falling down from his horse with a hole in his head.

"Enemy attack! Be careful, it's an ambush!!"

The soldier behind Ai shouted in a loud voice.

At the same time, demons wielding weapons appeared from the shadows and rushed in towards the main street.

Beastmen, demi-humans and humans swung their swords and attacked the soldiers.

They instantly understood that the enemy were demons, that too skilled adventurers.

“Wa Waa! A lot of them came!?”

In panic, Ai ended up stretching the reins of the horse, and she fell down as the horse struggled.

“Ugiya!! It hurts ~ I hit my head ~”

In front of the tearful Ai, a battle filled with blood sprays had started already.

“Shit, there are too many! Don’t get divided Maintain formation _____”

Ai saw as the soldier, who had take command, had his head blow off.

“Oh my ~ this looks dangerous, should we run away while showing our backs Tsumiki? Wait Tsumiki!! Don’t run away alone without your master!!!”

Wait ~ while shouting, Ai slipped through the soldiers in battle while chasing the black cat.

Chapter 81 – Adventurers Vs. Scout Troop (1)

Lying face-down on the roof of the guild, we waited for the enemy to enter the village.

They are 7, and we have more adventurers and all are above rank 3 as well.

Our forces include my party [Element Master] that includes a black magician, fairy and a witch, all 3 magicians.

[Vulcan Powered] having 3 warriors led by Vulcan, 1 archer, and 1 magician. All belong to beastmen race and it is a rank 4 party.

[Three hunting Princesses] having 3 elf girls, all archers, and they were sisters on top of that. Rank 3.

Other than them, there were 2 solo Orc warriors, 1 skeleton magician, and 1 slime.

Total 15 people.

The specific details about the enemies abilities was unknown but if it's a normal scouting troop, at most they will be as strong as a rank 3 party.

If we deal the surprise attack well, we should be able to annihilate them all without any victims on our side.

We are only cooperating temporarily so it would be difficult to show any proper teamwork but, if we have numbers, ability, as well as the preemptive strike like this time, there's a low chance for us to lose.

All the adventurers are already in position and are waiting for the enemy to come.

"I hope everything goes well."(kurono)

“Everyone’s working hard! It’ll be alright!”(lily)

This time I am acting as the rear guard. After all there are lots of warriors to fight as the vanguard, so I’ll stick to the normal theory and provide covering fire from behind as a proper magician should.

Well in truth I feel more like a sniper rather than a rear guard. And Lily beside me is my observation supporter.

In Hollywood movies Snipers seem to work well alone, but normally, a sniper always works with a supporter as a combo.

“Yeah, we should also work hard and make the plan a success.”(kurono)

I focused myself. If we can easily finish off the scout troop here then the trust in me will also increase.

In the first place, the term sniper doesn’t exist in this world. They would only think of a hunter waiting to ambush a monster even if I tried explaining them. So when I took a position faraway from the actual battlefield, they started giving me weird suspicious looks.

But rather than explaining with words, it’ll be faster to explain the usefulness of a sniper with actions here.

I could see that these Crusaders were of a lower class, that is, they don’t have any means to deflect sniper attacks. So basically, I could start with shooting the most influential person first.

And with the accuracy of my magic bullet arts, I could snipe with the same efficiency as that of an actual sniper rifle even in this world, probably, well it’s my first time doing this so I can’t say for sure.

And, Lily also has convenient support Extra magic that I could use.

One of them is the glass-like transparent light ball that is floating in front of me.

Through it I can see faraway things magnified. It’s basically like a scope.

Even if my eyesight is over 2.0 through the modifications, that still doesn't mean that I don't need a scope for help.

For me who has not learned the magic [Hawk Eye] to enhance eyesight, such a support is really helpful.

Also, the rest of the duties of a supporter like keeping a watch over the surroundings and even eliminating enemies that have come very close, I have left it all to Lily.

Other than this scope, we can also talk through telepathy and with its further application, I can also see things that Lily sees in real time.

In the worst case, even if the enemy approaches from behind, Lily can eliminate him by firing her lasers like a sub-machine gun.

“.....Maybe I should have sent Lily to the front?”

No use thinking that now though.

I changed my thoughts and focused towards the approaching enemy troop.

“They're here.”

As expected, the enemy scout troop is approaching directly from the north-west highway and enters the village from the destroyed gate.

AS reported by Su-san, their number is 7.

They were clearly Crusaders identifiable with their white surcoats but only 6 of them were wearing those clothes.

“Hm, there's one that looks different.”

It was girl with blonde twintails. I could only think of her as a normal girl. She does have a breastplate and a bow so she should be a mercenary hired by the Crusaders.

She was walking alongside the person who looked like the commander of the troops, so she shouldn't be a prisoner from

Daedalus.

I'm a bit curious but I can't change the plans now, nor do I feel the need to.

As planned, I'll have them all die here.

"Operation start."

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(POV change to 3rd person)

Kurono fired the magic bullet made for long range sniping towards the head of the leading commander.

He had heard from Fiona that the commander must be skilled in both magic and martial arts even if he was a low class soldier but, he had no way to defend against Kurono's unforeseen snipe attack.

The black bullet, having strength equal to that of an actual sniper rifle bullet, clearly shot through the head of the commander.

That became the signal to other adventurers to start the operation.

"Let's do this you guys!! Don't let even a single one get out of here alive!!"

Vulcan shouted as he cut through the vanguard with his long sword.

"Enemy attack! Be careful, it's an ambush!!"

They lost their commander but they were all experienced soldiers. They had been surprised by the ambush but soon they got down from their horses and took battle positions.

They could have stayed and the horses and broken through if their opponent were humans or thieves who used brute force but,

“[Death Wall Defence.]”

The front of the street was sealed by the Skeleton magician and,

“Terra Shield.”

The rear was blocked by Fiona.

Having been sealed from both sides, the soldiers had no choice but to fight here.

Neither the intermediate dark type magic [Death wall defence], that Kurono saw for the first time, nor the giant [terra shield], that had been enhanced one level by Fiona’s magic, could be broken through easily.

The soldiers decided that it would be difficult destroy either of these walls and resolved to face the ambushers here instead.

(“These bastards, they are much more trained than those cowards that first attacked Irz”)

Vulcan secretly admired these soldiers in his heart that had quickly taken fighting stances without getting too surprised by the ambush.

He felt that they wouldn’t go down easily, but that still didn’t change their fate of being annihilated here.

(“But, what the hell is that brat?”)

In his view was a girl who had neither taken up her weapon nor had come down from her horse.

“Wa Waa! A lot of them came!?”

In panic, she ended up stretching the reins of the horse too much, and she fell down as the horse struggled.

“Ugiya!! It hurts ~ I hit my head ~”

Not even a rank 1 adventurer would show such a pathetic sight.

(“For the time being, let’s take that brat as a prisoner.”)

Vulcan thought, and all others had the same opinion as well.

Kurono had said to kill them all, but that didn't mean to kill them all in battle. They could kill them after getting info as well.

These adventurers who lived on the battlefield understood Kurono's words instantly, but from a normal point of view, Kurono who had shown the intent to kill even prisoners could not be said to be a 'normal high schooler' anymore.

Whether he himself had realized that or not, Kurono was currently taking the next move as an adventurer. i.e. he aimed his magic bullet towards the next enemy.

"You bastard, you look the strongest, become my opponent."(Vulcan)

"Shit, don't underestimate me you inferior demon!!"

Vulcan found the strongest soldier among the remaining 5 excluding the girl and the fallen commander, and attacked him savagely.

Vulcan swung his giant sword and the soldier used [Force boost] to face this big framed beast.

"SLASH!!!"

The werewolf adventurer and the human soldier. The martial art skill released by both of them was the same.

But, just as there is difference in power of magic depending on the caster, there is also a difference in martial art depending on the user.

"Hahaa! You did well in enduring atleast 1 move, not bad!!"

The result was Vulcan's absolute victory. Unable to hold against him for even 1 second, the soldier was blown away a few meters and fell down on the ground.

Even with the [Force boost] a human could not match with a

werewolf in power, that too Vulcan who was exceptionally strong. The difference in power could not be diminished at all.

The favourite long sword of the rank 4 Vulcan, that had costed him the most money and labour, was also in a different league as a weapon.

The soldier truly did deserve the praise to have endured even a single attack.

“You damned monster——“

“Stand up already. You aren’t gonna give up now, right?”

Shouldering his giant sword, Vulcan calmly walked towards the soldier. Even in this situation where killing the opponent quickly was the goal, he prioritized crossing swords with a strong guy for a little while longer.

He had a bad habit of ignoring his objective but his party knew that and properly supported accordingly. That is why he was able to ‘enjoy fights’.

“That calmness will be your end! رعد السهم بيرس —[Lightning arrow – Rain Sagita!!]”

“Oh!?”

The soldier quickly ended his chant and fired attack magic towards Vulcan.

But even if the chanting was short, it still took more than a second. And that time was enough for a rank 4 adventurer to deflect a lower level magic.

“What, so you could use magic too? Hehe, a jack of all trades eh?”(Vulcan)

Vulcan defended against the lightning by using his giant sword as a shield.

“I told you that your calmness will bring your end!!”

The soldier, who had already stood up, threw the item in his hand.

Vulcan quickly realized what that red stone flying towards him was.

“Diee!! [Ignis Overblast]!!!”

The moment the soldier shouted, flames exploded.

The flames spread out and enveloped Vulcan’s body and a shock wave and smoke spread all over.

Intermediate level ranged magic [Ignis Overblast] was not a magic a member of the scout troop would have learnt, no matter how trained they are. Because if he actually did, then he’ll be a magician and not a soldier.

What he threw was neither a stone nor a grenade. It was a magic item that could release [Ignis Overblast] once.

Such single-use items were not rare but they were not cheap enough to be collected easily either. Using them also required some skill and a bit of magical energy.

This magic item was kept by the soldier as a personal protective charm and was not something provided to the soldiers.

Anyway, Vulcan had quickly realized that the magic item was an attack magic based item.

But, knowing it, and defending against it are two different things.

The soldier was aware of his inferiority in physical strength but was also aware that he could defeat him with his trump card magic item. Fortunately for him, Vulcan was not wearing any heavy armour either.

If Vulcan had been covered in steel, it would have become difficult to deal a fatal blow. And if he had a defensive magic then the chances would be even lower.

But, Vulcan who was wearing only clothes and a chestplate, it would be impossible for him to stop the flames and heat.

“With this, it’s over damned monster…….”

The soldier took a step with his sword that had cracked from the previous blow.

He didn’t think that the magic was enough to kill a demon that had high vitality but it would be enough to take away his ability to fight back at least.

But unfortunately, he didn’t know how Vulcan had made as far as becoming a rank 4 adventurer.

“You have some pretty cool things, but, is that it?”

From within the flames, Vulcan walked out while shouldering his giant sword as usual.

His clothes and armour had some soot, but his body was completely unhurt.

“Wh,Why……no way, healing magic!?”

“Half-correct. But that’s not the only secret.”

The extra magic possessed by Vulcan, Auto-heal, had attained him the title of [Immortal].

But, right now, the flames and heat were not stopped by his regenerating power.

“Kooooooooo——“

It was the giant sword that ‘ate’ magical energy with a ominous cry.

Although he called it a [secret] but any adventurer with some experience would know what it was.

At least, if they knew that this white board like giant sword was not made of metal but was actually the fang of a monster, they would understand that it was the ability of the monster that dwelt in the weapon.

The inscription on the sword was [Fang sword Evil eater/Gluttony], the raw material used was from the monster called [Gluttony magic beast – Chaos Eater]. A young one would be rank 4 and a fully grown one would be a rank 5 monster. It was magic beast that could match a dragon.

[Chaos Eater] was as its name suggested, a glutton. Its Extra magic allowed it to ‘eat’ magical energy of any form and absorb it.

Basically, it was impossible to defeat it with attack magic and could not be blocked by defensive magic. If one was careless, it would even devour healing magic as well.

To kill it, one needed to use only magics to boost and enhance their own abilities and attack directly with physical force.

The ways to attack were limited to only pure physical strength, that’s why it was classified as a rank 5.

Vulcan’s giant sword was a magic weapon made out of the fang of this monster and it could almost negate the effect of even intermediate magic with a single swing.

Having such a powerful weapon along with his own physical strength was what allowed him to become a rank 4 adventurer.

“It’s troublesome so I’m not gonna explain it, so think about it carefully in the other world.”

And thus, with the agility of a werewolf, he rushed in and split the soldier in two with a single slash.

Chapter 82 – Adventurer vs Scout Troop (2)

The scout troop fought well against against adventurers of rank 3 and more.

“Damn, Don’t get seperated, stay close—”

The heads of the commander and the commanding soldier were blasted into bits with Kuroono’s sniping, but the soldiers still made frantic efforts to fight.

“Aa, This won’t last more than 3 mins”

Adventurer Ai catches a glimpse of such soldiers running.

Ai runs after her pet cat that had run away.

“Goaaaa!”

“Hooo!”

A Orc attacks Ai, but she evades it at hair’s breadth.

“VaAAA!”

“Slow!”

This time another orc attacks with a battle axe, but she evades by sliding beneath it.

The two orc didn’t chase after the running away Ai, and changed their targets to soldiers fighting near them.

“It was dangerous, wasn’t it? Aw, my hair ends got cut.”

The bloody feud unfolds at the main street. Ai somehow or another with goodluck dodges all the offensive magics and stray arrows, while steadily moving forward.

“All right, Just a little more.”

Some dozen of metres away, is the solid wall made by Fiona using ‘Tera Shield.’

The wall made by the natural airhead seemed like a stone wall, but it is impossible to jump over it, furthermore the horses can’t jump that high.

Even if it’s Ai who is makes mistakes in missions and always falls from, but as long as she is an adventurer rock climbing is not a big deal for her.

Ai in front of the two-storied big wall, challenges it with enthusiasm as if saying ‘I will climb if there is a wall here.’

“Hey you, why are you trying to run?”

But immediately after, from her back comes a voice with bloodlust.

“.....Shit”

Ai timidly turns back to look, there were 3 elves standing.

There were Elf girls standing there, with blond hair, blue eyes, narrow and long ears and also toned slender body.

Ai witnesses one of the girl shooting arrow in the heads of soldier and killing them. Their outwards appearance are completely different from inner contents.

“Aww, that soldier didn’t even last 1 minute.”

Upon those words Ai recalls the figure of the soldier desperately defending himself using magic from the trio’s attacks some seconds ago.

“Isn’t it bad, just get caught without resistance, we don’t want to do tiresome work.”

The two not killing the soldiers, fix an arrow made of lighting on the bow string and ask for Ai to surrender.

“Erm, If I get caught without resistance, will you guarantee my safety.”

“Haa? If you’re also an adventurer you must know what happens to the monsters captured alive, don’t you?”

“Just like I thought.”

Ai made a wry smile while cold sweat pours from her forehead.

“Well, we can’t leave Tsukimi-chan here, so I won’t give up and run away from here!!”

The two elves shoot the lightning arrows seeing Ai move.

The same time the arrows are fired, a round ball like object fires from the hands of Ai.

Along with the balls flying away, AI bends down in a grovelling position and the arrows go past above her head burning the ends of her twin tails.

The two elves run away from their places, while being vigilant towards the mysterious ball flying in the sky making a parabola.

In an instant the ball emits dazzling light and bursts.

“Flash, huh?!”

Though the elves see through the true form of the ball, but they couldn’t do anything other than closing their eyes and protect with their hands in that much time.

The dazzling light can even be felt even behind the closed eyelids, if one were to look at it with open eyes, they would go blind without a doubt.

Thanks to closing the eyes, they didn’t suffer any damage, but it still will take some time for their eyes to recover.

“Tsk, now I don’t care even if she dies! ‘Air Blast’”

The two elves having lost eyesight for the time being stay vigilant for sudden attacks, and now they attack instead of taking Ai as a prisoner.

The primary magic they excel at involves both wind and lighting, if it is concentrated on their bow 'Sylph Light' and fired, it becomes a low grade offensive magic.

It can be used as a arrow, but to be precise it is a cane in the form of arrow.

The 'Air Blast' shot by the two advances forward covering a wide range with wind blades surrounding.

The invisible blades with great cutting sharpness, leave countless cuts on the stone wall on the ground.

「انتعاش——Lesser Heal」

Just as the the wind blades advance forward, the third elf who was beating the soldiers, starts a healing magic and the eyesight of the two returns.

"You really saved me there, nee-san"

"Thank you!"

After giving their gratitudes, they once again see their prey, Ai.

"No way, healing is too fast?!"

Ai somehow dodges the range of the Air blast by climbing on the wall, but the the point she is clinging like a frog is in the middle of the wall.

From this positions she can neither defend or attack, of course she can't even climb the wall before the second wave of attacks come.

As Ai looks back, she sees the figure of 3 elves with arrows nocked and are going to shoot.

If one person was hitting, she might have been able to evade, but

with three shooting at the same time, she will definitely get hit by at least one arrow no matter what she tries.

Furthermore, the three are rank 3 adventurers, they can't miss their target at this range.

“It's not time to be stingy about using items. Take THIS!!”

Along with a scream, Ai once again releases something.

Before she is hit and her fate is fixed the effect of item activates.

Along with a plop sound, the item bursts and a dark green smoke spreads out.

“So it's poison this time!?”

“Wouldn't I be also engulfed in it idiot, this is just a smokescreen.”

The dark and dense green smoke spreads and hides Ai inside it.

“There's no other choice but to scatter this”

Once again the three nock bows and pull string to their extent.

“Air Blast”

Two use the same magic as before, but this time to scatter away the smokescreen.

With a sudden gust of wind and Ale blast the smokescreen disappears.

“Lightning Arrow – Line Sagita”

And the other one fires a lightning arrow filled with bloodlust.

The Line Sagita flies through while leaving a trail of blue color just like the laser beam, but

“Whoa, close call!?”

Again Ai dodges at hair's breadth by climbing to the top of the wall

and jumping down quickly from it.

“Ju-Just how much good is she at escaping.....”

One elf says as such ,though it was dangerous, but she escaped without even a single injury.

“Well there is still one more person outside.”

“Aa, was it Fiona?”

“If I remember correctly she is rank 1 adventurer, but she could use this great defense magic, wouldn’t she be fine?”

The three decide not to go to other side of wall to attack and decide to take on soldiers as their prey has run away, but just as they look behind,

“Uaaa! Please wait, save m—”

The last soldier was cut in two halves by a beast man, and the battle was over.

“Over already?”

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“If you move 100 metres from the gate, I’ll shoot.”

While mumbling that, Fiona in complete black witch clothes, moves towards the the shadow that fell down in front of the main gate..

Just some seconds a girl carrying a cat came rushing through the gate shouting ‘Finally, the Escape Quest Completed!!’

Fiona saw a glimpse of her climbing the stairs while waving her twin tails like a tail of horse.

“Well then Kurono-san, now that I have an opportunity, I will show

you my attack magic.”

This line was definitely not heard by Kurono who was standing on the rooftop of the Guild, but he will be able to see her ‘intermediate level’-like attack magic for sure.

« ثلاثاء نار متقدة عصا الشعلة سيبرز بيرس »

From her small mouth came the chant of a normal model magic, with no change whatsoever, just as it is written in the school magic books.

Her magic power concentrates in her staff ‘Ainz Broom’ and it amplifies the firepower of the magic being used.

Without stopping from speaking the chant, she completes her chant in 15 seconds.

The magic she was about to release is the intermediate level attack magic of fire attribute ‘Ignis Kris Sagita’

It is written in characters of spears and people in line, if many magicians release it, it will create the same scene as it’s name suggests a line full of spears. And if activated from the ground, it will create a bristling hot pillar of fire.

If a magician hears Fiona’s chant, he/she will conclude it is a magic that will blow away the target.

But the one who sees her magic for first time will have their conclusion betrayed,

“Ignis Kris Sagita”

Because the thing Fiona made is not pillar but a giant tower of fire with scorching heat.

DoGoGoGoGoGooooOO!!

“Whoa! What is it?”

“!?”

Kurono and Lily on the the rooftop,

“What is it!?”

“What the hell is that!?”

“What the friggin hell is that!?”

“What the fucking friggin hell is that”[ET: the last some line were all the same if TL’ed in English, So I added a little more fun to it.]

The adventurers on the main street,

“—How is it Kurono-san, my magic, did you like it?”(fiona)

Along with the explosion sounds, appeared a flame tower with scorching heat, the people saw it and were astonished.

Just after some seconds the Ignis Kris Sagita loses its magical power and disappears.

After the tower disappeared, only the black ground was there, no one could say that something else was present at that place some time before.

Chapter 83 – Safe Return

“.....And so, only you came back escaping from them.”

“Um, one person and one animal.”

Ai was standing in front of commander Norz and his aide Sylvia in a room within the headquarters.

“You Fool! It doesn’t change anything!!”

Norz became enraged at her coming back with her cat only alive and not showing even a bit of timidity in her replies.

“Please calm down”

Just before 5 seconds Norz would have hit her, Sylvia whisper in her ears in a cold voice.

“She is most probably one that Cardinal likes, if you raise hand on her do you think you’ll be forgiven?”

“Gu.....But still this”

“We don’t have any time to deal with her, shouldn’t we make plans for interception.”

“Tsk, Got no choice”

Norz somehow calms down his rage and closes his eyes while folding his arms, as if he doesn’t care whatever the adventurer says now.

“Adventurer Ai, Thank you for your hard work, you can go now.”

“Ye~s”

After giving an idiotic reply, Ai along with Tsumiki left the room.
[ET: Tsumiki is her cat.]

“.....However, finally we can fight a battle which doesn’t feel like

massacre.”

Inside Norz words there were some hidden expectations.

He wasn't as good as Kievan but he was also a genuine believer of Cross, and hated the demons from the very bottom of his heart. In spite of that, the reason he went to occupy villages without more soldier was because his aide, Sylvia was holding his reins due to which he couldn't go on a rampage and Sylvia also negotiated like an expert with the villages to surrender.

Though the ability of Sylvia capturing villages without any resistance is something of very much value, but to Norz who was enthusiastic 'I will kill all the demons. It will be a bloodbath.', the 'peaceful' actions were somewhat unsatisfying for him.

“The overdoing of Priest Kievan, must have put in the seeds of rebellion in the demons.”

They have already heard from the soldiers that escaped about the crucifixion as an example of the Cross.

If they had easily occupied Irz Village like that, it might have served as a purpose for fear, but his actions in turn aroused the hate and seeds of rebellion in the other villages.

“Fun, the enemies are just some lousy adventurers, whether they are demons or something else, we can send out hundred thousand soldiers if we want. But naturally, it won't be needed as our squad already has a lot of soldiers to complete this job.”

Judging from the scale of village, even if all the villagers were to arm up and come at them, they won't be a match for Norz Squad.

Naturally, it is not like even women and children would come in fight, if they join hands with those who can properly file like vigilante corps or adventurers, they still won't make more than 300.

Unless a dragon or something appears, Norz squad will not be defeated.

Therefore, Sylvia was also not worried about this, but rather she

was worried about the other matter.

“There is nowhere they can now run to inside Daedalus territory. I will slowly drive them in corner while they feel regret along with the demons who opposed the god.”

“.....No, there is a place to escape.”

“What did you say?”

Sylvia’s long and slender finger runs over the western part of Daedalus’s map that was spread on the table.

“There is no problem for us if they move along the south-west highway using from Kuar Village.

But if they, ran towards the west using the north-west, then they would...”

Beyond the line named as Galahad Mountain Range, there was a country name ‘Spada’ written.

“Impossible, I have heard that they are an enemy nation.”

“If they had somehow known that Daedalus has been defeated, the villagers will perceive the end of their country. I think it would be the most logical answer that they would run to Spada as refugees.”

“Fumu, there is a possibility of this information somehow being leaked.....”

Norz frowned his eyebrows and groaned.

“When we conquer the village they will just become newcomer of the new village. There will be no problem in leaving some combatants demons on their own.”

Even if it will be a little, if demons will start a rebellion, crusaders side will have to suffer some casualties.

Judging from the whole war potential of Crusaders those casualties might not be much, but there is no harm in avoiding it.

“No, it is not good.”

But Norz rejects Sylvia’s suggestion of no fighting.

“I can not accept this even if this is your proposal Sister Sylvia.”

“.....I see, well the commander are you do as you like, I don’t want to meddle with you.”

Sylvia refrained herself from speaking anymore useless talk to Norz who seemed to be determined.

“I’m really happy that you understand Sister Sylvia. Now let me give out my orders, don’t let a single running demon live, just massacre them all, you got it?”

Norz eyes while speaking that were the same as the Kievan who was also a religious fanatic.

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After completing her reporting job, Ai returned to the campsite where her party, no, mercenary group friends were sleeping.

The occupation forces, take the tallest buildings like that of head of village or adventurer guild and turn them into headquarters, and confiscated all the buildings in its surroundings.

However the adventurers and mercenaries who were not a part of army, have been given the permission to reside anywhere which won’t become a hindrance to the forces.

It is normal for adventurers who were temporarily hired and soldiers to be on bad terms with each other. If things went down wrong, it will make troubles such as battles, and so it was not unusual for them both to camp at different places.

The group Ai belonged to is ‘Cyprus Mercenary Group’, the prime

example of those aforementioned circumstances.

Their campsite was a little away from the village, with a building of a farmer as their centre.

Ai heads towards her tent, while giving greetings to fellow mercenaries.

Just when she put down Tsumiki and was about to enter the enter to sleep.

“Yoo, If you have returned, come to my place at least once.”

Upon the voice of a man from behind, Ai turned backwards with a frankly irritated expression on her face.

His age is somewhat older than Ai, and is a good looking man with a good body stature. But his indecent grin and the clothes worn by him in a shabby manner could be said as the figure of a nasty brat who got a growth spurt.

“Can you not talk to me? And don’t you dare come any more close than that.”

Without caring about Ai’s cold reply, he closes his distance more while fluttering his long hair.

“OiOi, I doubt that is a way to talk to a captain, isn’t it? Aren’t we buddies, we should be more happy with being with each other.”

Just like the man said, he is the leader of the 87 mercenaries present here.

His name is Cyprus. The mercenary name was after all set after his name.

“Don’t speak disgusting things, and if you move just one more step, the name will change from Cyprus Mercenary Group to Ai Mercenary Group.”

Ai took out knife before anyone knew and, thrust the blunt side in Cyprus’s stomach.

“I am really tired today, after all I escaped by barely saving my life today. If it wasn’t for the me being of great class, I would’ve died, you know?”

More than halfway may sound like joke, but Ai’s eyes were serious when saying that.

“oho, you saying the truth?”

He replies a joke with a joke, but Ai inferred it through his atmosphere that he was more interested in knowing if there really was a battle or not.

“Un, and from now on it will get busy, so get ready fast for departure too.”

Saying that, Ai put knife back and entered her tent.

Cyprus stood there, and did not chase after Ai as if he didn’t care about her for the time being and suddenly he laughed.

“I will be finally able to do some ‘decent’ job. I have already got bored of playing with the demon sluts, this is a good timing, no, if said in his words, this might be the so-called ‘fate’—pfft, I really am loved by God!”

Chapter 84 – Amity

The destruction of the valuable facilities of Irz went better than I expected.

I thought I could only burn the drain storehouses at most but with the help of Fiona's terrific magic, we were able to destroy the sturdy guild completely and even turned the whole central area of the village into bare land.

And currently, the adventurers on standby had gathered together under the pretence of reporting the fruits of battle and were currently drinking sake together.

Is this fine during such an emergency? Is what everyone might think but we will be the last to leave the village as the rear guard and there were things remaining after the evacuation, so we decided to drink and eat as much as we please.

It could be that this would be our Last Supper, every adventurer here thought that but nobody said that out loud.

“Well weren't you fine? When you said that you will be going to the guild rooftop, I thought you wussed out at the last second zehahaha!!”

Vulcan's giant palm normally hurt as he patted my back but since he had the pawpads unique to the beastmen, the effect was much reduced.

“Didn't I explain it properly? I fulfilled my role as was required.”

“I clearly saw boss blowin up the enemies heads with a single shot as well!” (T/N: Mr.skeleton speaks in Kansai dialect which is untranslatable in eng.)

The one who spoke in this fake kansai dialect was the skeleton magician Mozrun, aka Mossan.(T/N: the nickname is a fusion of his name and ossan which means old man cuz he's a skeleton. Get it?)

He is the one that used [Death Wall Defence] to block off the

enemies today.

With his shinigami-like looks and the straight [Dark Wizard] class on his guild card gave me a an impression of being an avatar of evil but,

“Nah, to have such control over black magic at such a young age, you’re a damn genius! It’ll be child’s play to repel that whatever army! Gahahaha!!”

Inside he was just like an old man from Osaka.

When I tried talking he turned out to be an energetic good guy(?) like this.

“Child’s play would be over exaggerating but Kurono-san is dependable as a leader, and he also possesses a strong Original magic as well.”

The one who calmly said that was the slime, Su-san. (T/N: I translated her as Susan before but it was actually Su-san. My apologies) No matter how I look at her, isn’t she a human? She looked like a normal woman with a medium build after all.

In RPGs slime are jelly like creatures, but they can apparently, sometimes change the shape of their bodies when they get stronger. By the way, to change into a handsome man/beautiful woman requires the appropriate technique as well as more magical energy it seems.

Beautiful things possessed the charm attribute in this world, so being beautiful also possessed a different meaning in terms of magic as well.

Also, I just learnt this now but her name was [Susu] thus she was called as Su-san. It was not Su-san from slime(Suraimu in jap), definitely not!

“But, the most surprising was definitely Fiona-san’s magic, right?”

“Really?”(Fiona)

“ee, really.”

The one talking to the Fiona, who had her usual sleepy eyes, was an elf woman with a gentle smile. She was the leader of [Three Hunting Princesses] and the eldest of the three sisters, Irina-san.

All three of them had blonde hair, blue eyes, slender physique as well as their weapons were the same but, all three had different hairstyle, so they could be easily differentiated.

Irina-san has a hairstyle in which she has a long braid behind her neck.

“That extreme magic, if we were closer, it would have been really bad.”

“Her positioning was really correct.”

As I heard Mossan and Su-san, I once again felt glad that I heard about her magic beforehand.

As expected, if a magic like that was fired inside a dungeon, it won't end as just a joke.

“Am I being complimented?”(Fiona)

“Yeah, Fiona-san's magic has amazing power, thank god you're in my party.”(kuroono)

“.....I see.”

As she said that, her cheeks seemed a bit red. Guess she's getting drunk as well.

“Oh right, Fiona-san?”

“Yes?”

Before she gets dead drunk, I had something important to say to her.

“Come to my room later, alright?”

“!?!”

parin the sound of a glass falling and shattering came.

“What happened Lily? Are you alright?”(kuroono)

“.....sorry.”(lily)

Lily was sitting on my lap but it seems she dropped her glass by accident.

“What, did the little fairy also get drunk?”

“No, I’m not letting her drink sake.”(kuroono)

She isn’t drunk but she must be tired.

Lily could only turn in her normal form during full moon nights but she turned back just her consciousness at village head’s home, as well as when she asked me to become the leader through the item she brought from the fountain of light.

According to Lily, by using the [Queen Beryl], she could turn to her normal form but only for 30mins in 1 day since the burden is high.

She could turn to her normal state by using the Divine Protection of the Fairy Queen. But even if it was a key item, its effect was still an enormous magical energy boost only.

Of course, 30mins was the limit to use her full grown body for battle, if it was just her consciousness, she could keep it longer.

But still the burden on her is not zero. It must have accumulated as fatigue in her small body.

For the time being, I should carry her back to the room.

“Lily seems to be tired so we’ll leave first. Tomorrow’s schedule is what I had explained earlier. Once again, look forward to working with you guys.”(kuroono)

After getting their agreement, I carry Lily in my arms.

“Kurono-san.”(Fiona)

“Nn?”

“I’ll come as well.”

Fiona-san’s face was even redder than before for some reason.

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On top of the bed of the guest room, Kurono, Lily and Fiona were sitting.

Kurono with a serious expression, Fiona with her usual cool expression and Lily, between them, with a somewhat displeased expression.

(“Could Kurono-san want me to.....”)

Just a while back, the erotic situation that every adventurer there was imagining except Kurono, was also being imagined by Fiona as well.

(“Certainly Kurono-san gave me icecandy, wasn’t drawn away by my attack magic, he really is a good guy but it really is too early for such a relationship!”)

Fiona who was asked to “Come to my room” for the first time at night was somewhat in chaos right now.

“Fiona, you haven’t forgotten the rule in our party right?”

The moment Lily who was lying on the bed said that, she realised that the chance of her losing her chastity tonight, no matter how passionately Kurono approached, was absolutely zero.

And thus, it became a situation where all 3 were quietly sitting (Lily was lying down though) on the bed.

“Lily, is it fine to turn back your consciousness? Aren’t you tired??....”

“It’s fine, don’t worry. After all, you are going to have some important talk now, right? I need to listen properly as well.”

Lily answered with a smile, and Kurono gave a somewhat understanding expression.

And without minding Lily anymore, he spoke towards Fiona.

“The reason I called Fiona-san to my room was because I need to talk about something extremely important with you. Since you already told me about being from Arc continent, I decided to also tell about my own identity.”

Fiona understood why she was called with her usual sleepy face.

“And, you also want to hear about the Arc continent, Syncrea Republic, and the Cross religion, right?”(Fiona)

Although she still didn’t know what Kurono wanted to tell, she did know what he wanted to hear from her.

And she also realised that he called her to his room to avoid letting the others know that she was with the Crusaders before.

“That’s right. But what I want to know the most is——.”

But, even Fiona didn’t expect Kurono to say what he was about to speak next.

“——just what the hell are the [Apostles]?”

Chapter 85 – The Black Gods & The White God

Does God exist? Does he exist in the heart of the believers? No, does he exist no matter what?

There have been various theories regarding God, but in the 17 years I lived in modern Japan, God was nothing but an illusion to me.

At least, I didn't believe that an existence called God that looked like a human watched over the whole world from the heavens above.

I am not against religion or anything but, it was a fact that no one on earth had seen a being that could cause miracles with just looking or touching.

But this different world was a true fantasy world that had its own rules and principles.

Yes, in this world [God] exists.

One of its proofs was the existence of [Divine Protection].

Simply speaking, God gave power to a man and the abilities gained by that man was called the [Divine Protection].

For example, having immense physical strength without using enhancement magic or being able to use magic that you have never learnt or practiced, etc.

I didn't actually feel it but apparently my Black magic is a type of [Divine Protection].

Black magical energy was completely different from the primary magical energy that normally exists in this world and is a type of special energy that is brought about by God.

"In Kurono's case, I think there is a gate in your soul that is connected to the [Black Gods] from where you pull the black

magical energy.”

“Lily, this is the first I’m hearing of this…….”

“Eh, well I thought you already knew, or rather isn’t the source of your own magical energy something you’ll know somehow automatically?”

“……I don’t know.”

What the hell are the [Black Gods] anyway? When did I get connected to such a suspicious group of guys?

No, it must have been when I underwent the first experiment that helped me obtain magical energy.

That really did hurt like hell. I can understand if someone says my soul was involved in it.

“I didn’t think Kurono didn’t even know about Gods. But since you can use magic properly, does all these things about your magical energy even matter?”

“Well, I guess but……[Black Gods], is it…….”

“That’s the generic term for all the gods that are spoken of in the whole Pandora continent. Even Irz village had a shrine dedicated towards a harvest god, right? All such gods together are known as the [Black Gods]. By the way our [Fairy Queen] is also one of them.”

“I see, so it’s like the Yaoyorozu no kamigami.” (T/N: All the deities in Shinto religion are referred to as such .)

The Gods are spread all over the continent and provide their [divine protection] to that area and are worshiped there.

It’s the same if the gods back in my world also gave such divine protection wherever they were enshrined. Well, this must be also a type of ‘magic’, I guess.

But in my case, it is only to the extent of providing magical energy

and I am not directly connected to a god.

It's conveniently called the [Divine Protection of the Black Gods].

Then if I also start worshipping a specific God, will I also gain some kind of super powers?

[Divine Protection] isn't something you could get easily just by praying apparently. Looks like the gods are also calculative, or should I say realistic minded.

"Now that Kurono-san has understood what Gods are, I'll talk about the [Apostles]." (Fiona)

"Yes."

Right, I wanted to hear about the Apostles in the first place.

It seems I only vaguely understood the concept of gods in this different world so I was first told that.

"[Apostles] are beings that have transcended humans after specially receiving the [Divine Protection] of the [White God]. According to the Cross religion, the White God is the creator of all existence and the humans were created the last for the purpose of ruling over this world, or so they preach."

It seems in the Arc continent a God similar to the God in bible that created the god in 1 week exists.

Damn this really is completely suspicious all over.

"I don't know whether he actually created the world or not but in the Arc continent he is the oldest and the most influential God."

"And then the greedy [White God] wanted to increase his territory so he sent those damned humans to the Pandora continent controlled by the [Black Gods]."

"It's as you say Lily-san. The campaign towards the Pandora continent was started due to an [Oracle] sent by the White God."

The Crusaders in my original world were ones that took military action in the name of reclaiming their holy grounds and whatnot but to think that here, God actually clearly gave the order himself.

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“The [White God] desired this land, thus we, the [Crusaders, have come to this land to offer it to him.”

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That was what Sariel had said to me at Daedalus but it turned to be a literally true.

“Expanding the land under control, what exactly are they going to do?”

“The Cross religion will build up churches that only worship the [White God] and will exterminate all other religions and its worshippers. As a result, all types of culture and religion that already existed here would be destroyed, and disappear probably.”

Basically, same as what happened in my world.

Sariel did say [convert] but the image I had in my mind back then was actually correct.

It would have been fine if it ended with just converting but considering what happened at Irz, those bastards are truly bent on completely exterminating any race other than the humans.

They won't even accept surrender. These guys really are demons.

“I'll come back to the topic, how many Apostles are there?”(kuroono)

“There will always be 12 total.”(Fiona)

“The number is always fixed?”

“Yes, though it might take some time till a new one is found in case the number falls.”

As expected, the favourites of God aren't 100 or 1000 people. At least they won't send an army full of Apostles so that's a relief.

"If you end up facing them, it'll only be one at a time. Probably, the highest chance would be the supreme commander [7th Apostle Sariel], I think."(Fiona)

".....we already fought."(kurono)

"Yeah, that's not something you can forget."(Lily)

"Oh my, how did that happen?"(Fiona)

Looks like even Fiona-san is surprised as she looks at me with a clearly surprised expression.

"When we went to scout Daedalus, I happened to meet her on the castle walls. Since she called herself the supreme commander, I tried to assassinate her there and then but instead got beaten myself."

"That's.....you did well even surviving that."(Fiona)

Are those eyes looking at me with pity for doing a stupid thing Fiona-san?

"Yeah, if Lily didn't help, I would have definitely died there."

"No such thing, that woman let us go intentionally."(lily)

I was unconscious till I woke up at Riol pass, so I don't know how exactly Lily saved me from Sariel.

Although she did say that it was okay to run away, but to have let us go even after I tried to kill her, just what the hell is that Sariel thinking? Did she think of me as trash that was not even worth killing?

"The Apostles are the strongest existence in the church. There is no one, at least in the Arc continent, that could face them one-on-one. You were lucky to have gotten away."(Fiona)

“She must have let me go on a whim, but, alright, I’ll make her regret that decision. You said one-on-one, but what about against large number of people? Do they have any weaknesses? Can they even be killed?”

That would be the main problem. If they turn out to be immortal due to the power of god, then it would be all useless.

I did injure her right arm with the [bone needle of Basilisk] so I think that’s not the case but still.....

Could it be they would revive even after killed through a miracle of God?

“They can be killed. No matter how strong the divine protection they have, the body is still human. If you cut off their heads, pierce their heart, or cause them to bleed too much; if you can deal such a fatal blow, they will definitely die.”(Fiona)

I guess a perfect [immortal] body is impossible even in a world of magic.

They won’t revive either so that’s a relief.

“Just how Kurono-san draws out black magical energy from the gods, the apostles use white magic drawn out from the gate in their souls that is connected to the [White God]. Just, the amount they can use is enormous. If you ask how much then, let’s see, can Kurono-san use black magic infinitely?”

“No way, even I have a limit.”

I ran out of magical energy a lot of times during those experiments after all.

Recently, I even fell unconscious during the evolution of the cursed hatchet against that Priest.

“Apostle can never experience the phenomenon known amongst magicians as [running out of magic]. No matter how many magics they use, their energy is instantly replenished. Of course, the amount provided by the [White God] is infinite. They will never

run out of magical energy.”

But that infinite magical energy was still just one part of their divine protection. I was told this terrifying truth.

“Then how do you kill them? There is no other way but to prepare a magic that can kill them in a single blow?”(kurono)

I doubt something that convenient exists.

“The most reliable way to kill an Apostle is to keep on attacking an Apostle with the full intent to die along with them. Even if they have infinite magical energy, the body that is human, will not be able to bear the burden of infinitely using magic. But, to exhaust the body of an Apostle to such a level, at least 10,000 soldiers are required, or so I have heard. I don’t whether that number is correct or not but if the Apostle ran away in between, their body will regenerate and you’ll be back to square one. There’s a chance that 10,000 men would be uselessly sacrificed as well.”(Fiona)

“A war of attrition is not impossible but is unrealistic, is it?”

The Apostles should be able to maintain their bodies at least. To fight till their body reached their limits—I see, to encircle one so that he doesn’t run away, it really will require at least 10,000 men against just 1.

“On the Arc continent, when against an Apostle, they either try to run away or try to hold them back, but never even think of killing them, or so I’m told. Though, there has been a case where the Apostle was actually killed in action, but they had sacrificed a lot of men for that.”(Fiona)

“And there are 12 of these guys.”(kurono)

Basically these guys alone are a full army. And adding the normal army soldiers to this.....the Syncrea Republic might actually possess a fighting force of 1000000.

“There’s no way all 12 would come to Pandora continent, so be relieved. Except the 7th Apostle, the rest won’t leave Elysion undefended and the others are also deployed towards the borders of

the Republic to settle problems and maintain their hegemony. There are some Apostles that are even missing.”

“Missing? What do you mean?”

“I’ve heard, that one has mixed with the public and is secretly planning a world reform, one is secretly researching something, there are many other rumours as well like that actually there are not even 12 Apostles, etc. I don’t know the truth though; they’re only rumours after all.”

World reformation? Well, whatever. It seems fine to just leave them be as long as they remain in the territory of the Republic while punishing villains and nobles in the name of justice while waving the flag their Cross.

This is actually favourable for us. Let Sariel be the only Apostle here, please.

“One becomes an Apostle not because of his/her faith, status or strength of magic but due to suddenly receiving the [Divine Protection] one day out of nowhere. Thus, if there are those that work passionately for the church then there are also those who hide themselves and freely do whatever they want as well.”

“Since they have the Divine protection, they are in a religiously strong position and are also strong. There is no one who can comment or act against them, is it.”(Kuronon)

“The Pope is considered even among the Apostles hierarchically but as you would expect he is not that strong. But, the duty of the Apostle, ‘to eliminate the enemies of God’, is common amongst all of them so they won’t betray the church. Even in history there has been no Apostle that has betrayed the God.”(Fiona)

Although they are allowed to act independently and freely, as long as they are receiving strength from the White God, they’ll still protect their place it seems.

“Well it’s fine. If the Apostles are that special, we won’t be seeing them all the time. At least, they won’t directly come to attack the

refugees.”(kuroono)

The only Apostle on Pandora is Sariel. Not to mention that she’s also the supreme commander as well. I doubt she’ll move around very freely.

The territory of Daedalus is huge. They won’t focus on this far west rural area for no reason I think.

“But, even if Sariel doesn’t come, the normal capturing unit of Crusaders will definitely come. The problem is how strong they are and what are their numbers.”(kuroono)

“I might be an ex-merc, but even I am not aware of such fine details of the Crusaders. If there’s something I can tell, then that would be that be only the basics about the knights and troops only.”

“No, I don’t know anything about them so that’s actually more than enough.”(kuroono)

I have more or less understood the purpose of the Crusaders. All that’s left is the various reasons and interests of the various groups of humans.

I have no need to know all that.

All that I need to know is the specific military ability of the Crusaders.

“If possible, can I hear what Kuroono-san had to say first?”(Fiona)

As I was wondering what should I ask first, such a demand came from Fiona-san.

“aa, that’s right, then I’ll tell what I had to say first.”

Where should I start—I worried about the same things when I first told Lily about this. Well, let’s start with the main core of the matter.

“Actually, I came here from a different world.”

Chapter 86 – Disappearance of an Apostle

Early morning, one of the Apostles had disappeared from one of the guest rooms.

“What should I do?.....”

So, once again the 7th Apostle Sariel was racking her brains.

“It, It’ll be fine. We’ll find Lord Misa soon!”

Just as the 12th Apostle Mariabelle, who tried to console Sariel for no reason, had said, the one who had disappeared was the 11th Apostle Misa.

This morning, when the sister came to her room to prepare for waking her up, there was only a scattered cushion on the large canopy bed and the god-loved girl that should have been sleeping there was nowhere to be seen.

This tragic news came to Sariel who woke up had woken up at daybreak as per the customs of the monastery.

“Currently, we have closed all the doors of the Capital Daedalus and have also sent a search party into the city as well.”

The one who had quickly taken such measures was Sariel’s aide, Archbishop Liuchrome’s work.

This meeting of Sariel with the 3 Apostles was something that had been concealed from the public and the soldiers had only been told that it was an important person.

But still, since Misa’s features were distinct, they could make do with just telling the soldiers about her characteristics and even a soldier who had never seen her directly would soon recognise her.

That is why, even with such complicated circumstances, as long as Misa was still hiding in Daedalus city, they would find her sooner or

later.

But, that's only if she's still here.

"If Lord Misa has used her 'ability' then she would have already gone far away from Daedalus already."

As Sariel spoke that while sighing, the faces of the beautiful brothers cramped as if in pain.

"You're talking about [Sky Fortress – Peaceful Heart]....."

With a fed up face, Mariabelle said the name of the troublesome ability held by Misa.

"Certainly, if she is flying in the air then it's useless no matter how much we search on land. If she secluded herself in the castle here, there would be no need for her to appear either, so this must be her own whim."

The 11th Apostle Misa's [Sky Fortress – Peaceful Heart]'s effect was literally as per the name.

If she uses 'that', she can fly on the same way as the only Pegasus Knights can.

"I'll go."

Sariel proposed the only thing she could do.

Even if she was the Supreme commander, she had no ability other than going out in battles.

She knew that it was much more efficient to stay quiet and just leave everything to Liuchrome regarding accurate decision making and orders.

"I am very sorry. I had kept it in mind to not trouble Her Excellency Sariel in any case except battles but....."(Liu)

"Don't worry, Lord Misa is my guest after all."(Sariel)

Liuchrome thanked as he bowed deeply.

“By the way, Mariabelle.”

“eh, what is it Nii-san?”

Due to being called suddenly, Mariabelle ended up calling him informally.

“Where is the 3rd Apostle Lord Mikael right now?”

Yes, the ones who came to visit Sariel were 3 people. The disappeared Misa, Mariabelle who was here and the beautiful [holy woman] that didn't show up even with all this ruckus, 3rd Apostle Mikael.

“aa, Lord Mikael after hearing about Lord Misa——“(maria)

.

“That's troublesome, then I shall also go and look for her ~”

.

“——is what she said.”(maria)

As if going on a morning walk, she had also left, is what Mariabelle told.

“Is there a way to contact Lord Mikael?”(Liu)

“.....aa”

Even though she said that she is going to look for her, just where is she roaming in this unknown city of Daedalus?

Thinking rationally, a normal person would have looked around the castle and returned while saying ‘I didn't find her.’ But this person was an Apostle with infinite magical energy.

If she felt like it, she could simply keep on walking till she reached the ends of the earth.

The title of [Holy woman] wasn't for just show. She could keep on worrying about the whereabouts of Misa and without even caring about herself, she could keep on walking forever to look for her.

"This might lead to a second disaster....."

Without scolding his brother for not stopping her, Liuchrome said those heavy words as he sighed.

"I'll search of Lord Mikael as well."(sariel)

Really sorry, both brothers bowed towards Sariel instantly.